



ALEX BRANDON Associated Press

THE FORMER PRESIDENT returned to campaigning on Tuesday after pleading not guilty in federal court. Supporters at a Cuban restaurant in Miami sang “Happy Birthday” to Trump, who turns 77 on Wednesday.

Trump pleads not guilty in classified documents case

The former president turns right back to his reelection campaign, vowing to ‘obliterate the deep state.’

BY SARAH D. WIRE AND SUMMER LIN

WASHINGTON — Former President Trump pleaded not guilty to 37 felony charges Tuesday in connection with his handling of classified documents and alleged attempts to prevent the government from recovering them.

It marks the first time an American president has been charged with a federal crime. If found guilty in the case, he could face decades in prison.

Wearing a navy suit and red tie, Trump was brought in about 15 minutes before the hearing began and sat slumped in his chair, hands clasped in his lap, as he waited for the judge to arrive, ABC News reported. He looked down at the floor for most of the hearing, and his lawyer waived a reading of the 49-page indictment.

Special counsel Jack Smith sat in the front row watching Trump closely, CBS News reported. Smith did not speak.

“We most certainly enter a plea of not guilty,” Trump’s attorney Todd Blanche told federal Magistrate Judge Jonathan Goodman, who oversaw the arraignment.

Trump was released on his own recognizance, wasn’t asked to surrender his passport and is still allowed to travel internationally, according to news reports. Goodman ordered Trump not to discuss the case with his personal aide and co-defendant, Walt Nauta, or witnesses.

Trump, who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination again, returned to his golf club in Bedminster, N.J., on Tuesday night for a private fundraiser, where he delivered a campaign speech containing a series of falsehoods about the government, the indictment and his other legal troubles.

He promised to “totally obliterate the deep state” and threatened that “justice will be done” on election day.

It was not immediately clear whether the date of his next hearing had been set.

On Friday, after a year-long investigation, the Justice Department unsealed the indictment against the former president, charging that he unlawfully took classified records when his presidency ended in 2021, then obstructed the government’s efforts to retrieve hundreds of the secret documents — some of them related to U.S. nuclear weapons operations and national defense vulnerabilities.

[See Trump, A7]

CORMAC MCCARTHY, 1933 - 2023

Enigmatic novelist let his work speak for itself

BY STEVE MARBLE

Cormac McCarthy, the acclaimed fiction writer whose books were regarded as American masterpieces by critics and legions of fans but who refused to offer insight into what had inspired them or what they might mean, has died.

Widely regarded as one of America’s greatest modern writers, McCarthy died Tuesday of natural causes at his home in Santa Fe, N.M., according to his publisher, Knopf. He was 89.

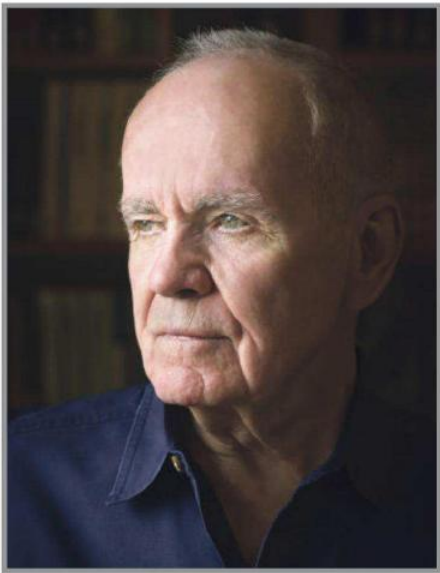
Often set in the backwoods of Tennessee or the great wide open of the Old West, McCarthy’s novels took violence to a nearly hallucinogenic level as he spooled out stories of murderous bounty hunters, drug deals gone fatally wrong and life in a post-apocalyptic netherworld.

His work — especially his early novels set in the South — was sometimes compared to that of William Faulkner or Flannery O’Connor. During the course of his career, he won virtually every meaningful award, including a Pulitzer Prize.

Although his early novels won praise from critics, they sold poorly. But his standing in the literary world soared with the 1992 publication of “All the Pretty Horses,” the first book in what came to be known as the Border Trilogy.

His 2005 novel “No Country for Old Men” was adapted into a screenplay for the Coen brothers’ movie of the same name, which won the Academy Award for best picture. And “The Road,” an allegorical tale of a father and son wandering through the gray

[See McCarthy, A11]



BEOWULF SHEEHAN Associated Press

STEADFASTLY PRIVATE

Cormac McCarthy, shown in 2014, won virtually every meaningful writing award in the course of his career.

“You start the day with the hope that today I’m going to do something better than I ever had. And, you know, that lasts a few minutes.”

— CORMAC MCCARTHY, discussing his writing process, in a rare interview with Oprah Winfrey

Councilman Price charged with perjury, embezzlement

L.A. politician faces 10 counts involving his wife and payments to her in the latest graft case to hit City Hall.

BY JAMES QUEALLY, JULIA WICK AND DAKOTA SMITH

Los Angeles City Councilmember Curren Price was charged with 10 counts of embezzlement, perjury and conflict of interest on Tuesday, becoming the latest in a years-long parade of elected city officials to face public corruption allegations from state or federal prosecutors.

Price, a 10-year veteran of the City Council, is accused of having a financial interest in development projects he voted on, and receiving tens of thousands of dollars in medical benefits from the city for his now wife while he was still married to another woman, according to a statement issued by the L.A. County district attorney’s office.

He was charged with five counts of grand theft by embezzlement, three counts of perjury and two counts of conflict of interest, according to a criminal complaint made public Tuesday.

The district attorney’s office alleges that Price’s wife, Del Richardson Price — founder of the consulting company Del Richardson & Associates — received “payments totaling more than \$150,000 between 2019 and 2021 from developers before he voted to approve projects.” The perjury charges stem from accusations that Price failed to list income Richardson Price received on government financial disclosure forms, according to the release.

“Curren Price is a long-standing public servant who has given his life to the city of Los Angeles,” Price spokesperson Angelina Valencia said Tuesday. “He looks forward to defending himself once he’s had an opportunity to address these charges.”

Price’s attorney, Dave Willingham, declined to comment, saying he had not seen the complaint.

The case was launched by the district attorney’s bureau of investigation. It was unclear how long the office had been mulling over charges.

“This alleged conduct undermines the integrity of our government and erodes the public’s trust in our elected officials,” Dist. Atty. George Gascón said in a statement.

City Council President Paul Krekorian said Tuesday evening that he will move to suspend Price during Wednesday’s council meeting. Krekorian intends

[See Price, A8]

An advocate sees legacy now at risk

Charges threaten to blunt Price’s impact on labor and social justice issues. **NATION, A8**

A blow to Black power in L.A.?

There are no simple answers in a city that for decades has been governed by tribal politics.

ERIKA D. SMITH

“With the trust that you placed in me, I’m going to continue to do everything in my power to bring our city together. This is an honor I don’t take lightly.”



Los Angeles City Councilmember Curren Price, standing in his usual spot behind the horseshoe at City Hall, delivered those words with supreme confidence last October.

His colleagues had just made him their second in command, their president pro tempore. Now they were looking at him expectantly, with more than a little hope, even as protesters who had packed the chambers yet again chanted and slapped their seats in a relentless cacophony of hopelessness.

As a Black man representing a majority Latino district in South L.A., Price was supposed to be the perfect politician to lead the city out of the darkness brought about by the leaked recording of three council members and a labor leader trading racist barbs about consolidating Latino political power through redistricting.

Darkness compounded by a series of corruption scandals that have ensnared, in relatively rapid succession, Councilmembers Mitch Englander, Jose Huizar and Mark Ridley-Thomas.

“It’s time we work together to restore trust,” Price said in October, statesman-like after decades in elected office. “Restore faith in our city.”

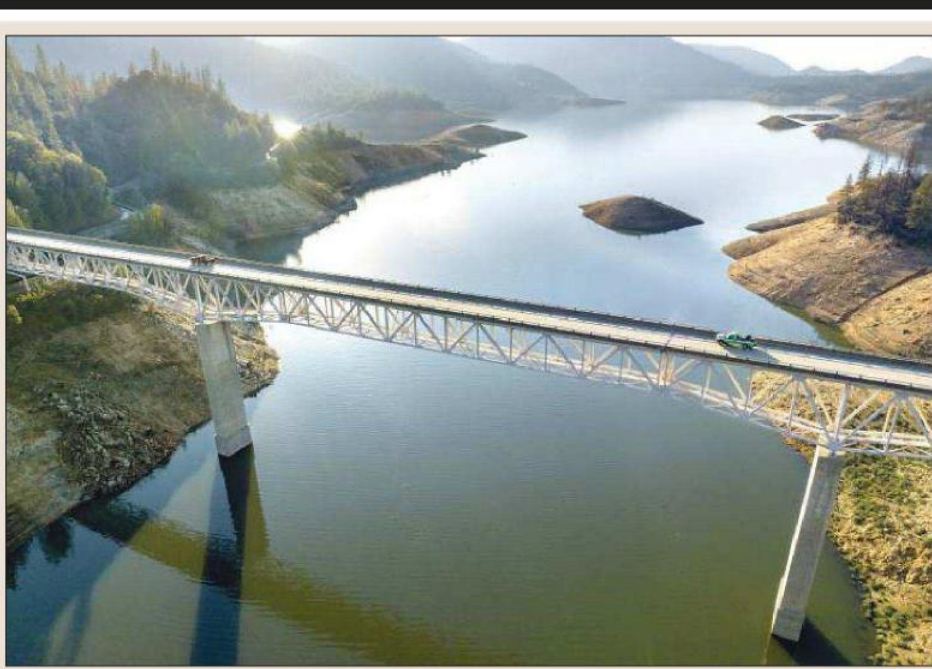
Apparently, it won’t be that simple.

On Tuesday, Price was charged with five counts of grand theft by embezzlement, three counts of perjury and two counts of conflict of interest. Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón said he is accused of having a financial interest in projects he voted on, and of having the city pay for medical benefits for his current wife while he was still married to another woman.

It’s unclear what will happen next.

Not long after the indictment was announced Tuesday afternoon, Price spokesperson Angelina Valencia told The Times: “We have not seen the charges filed against Councilmember Curren Price. It’s highly unusual for charges like this to be brought up against a sitting City Council member without any prior notice or discussion. Curren Price is a long-standing public serv-

[See Smith, A8]



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

OROVILLE FEELING FULL

Vehicles cross Enterprise Bridge at Lake Oroville, now 100% full after a wet winter. Since Dec. 1, the lake has risen more than 240 feet. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Fed’s fixation on labor costs and inflation

Central bank should know wage growth isn’t driving higher prices, Michael Hiltzik writes. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Golden Knights win Stanley Cup

Led by Mark Stone’s hat trick, Vegas routs the Florida Panthers 9-3 to take the series in five games. **SPORTS, B10**

Weather

Clouds, some sun. L.A. Basin: 72/59. **B6**

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PERSPECTIVES

Fed is wrong to focus on wages in inflation fight

MICHAEL HILTZIK

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome H. Powell and his colleagues have made major mistakes in their battle with inflation.



They instituted the fastest increase ever in interest rates despite evidence that many of inflation's drivers, such as shipping logjams at the ports and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, were immune to interest rate changes.

They ignored the contribution of corporate profiteering, despite data clearly showing that business profits were expanding sharply — in other words, businesses were raising prices far more than they needed to cover rising costs.

But the most egregious error may have been their fixation on labor costs as a driver of inflation. The truth is that workers were the victims, not the culprits, in the inflation spike.

That conclusion is underscored by the latest government figures on inflation and wages. On Tuesday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that consumer inflation fell to 0.1% in May, month over month, and 4% over the last year.

Earlier, the government had reported that hiring remained robust, though wages were falling on an inflation-adjusted basis.

Despite abundant evidence that the Fed's inflation-fighting campaign has left many workers behind, Powell has consistently



JOSE LUIS MAGANA Associated Press

FED CHIEF Jerome H. Powell has harped on the need to raise unemployment to bring inflation down.

harped on the need to increase unemployment to bring inflation down.

"Reducing inflation is likely to require ... some softening of labor market conditions," Powell said in his most recent news conference, following the Fed's latest interest rate hike on May 3.

Powell treated every statistic showing labor market strength — low unemployment, "excess demand" for workers, persistent wage increases — as an obstacle to reducing inflation.

"Labor market conditions," he said, "may have to soften a bit more to begin to see progress" against inflation. Barring that, he added, the Fed wouldn't be willing to start cutting interest rates.

It's hard to overstate how dangerous the Fed's preoccupation with labor costs has been for the average American family. Powell tends to speak in the bloodless terms of academic economics, referring to

"market conditions" and supply-and-demand curves. But those generalized formulas mask the potential for real pain and penury in American households in which efforts to "soften" labor conditions translate into layoffs and pay cuts.

Make no mistake: The people on the front line in this battle are not technocrats in air-conditioned rooms. They're rank-and-file workers whose opportunities get liquidated in economic downturns.

Whether this approach will still hold won't be known until Wednesday afternoon, when the Federal Open Market Committee announces its decision on interest rates. Most experts believe the Fed will pause in its more than yearlong cycle of raising interest rates. After the announcement, Powell will hold another news conference to discuss the committee's thinking and outlook for the near future.

As I've been writing for nearly a year, the idea that

wage increases drive inflation has been an enduring shibboleth among economists. Its most concise expression is the Phillips curve formulated in the 1950s by a New Zealand economist, which posits an inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment — that is, higher inflation is linked to lower unemployment and vice versa.

The most direct expression of this argument came last June from former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, who said in a June 20 speech in London, as reported by Bloomberg: "We need five years of unemployment above 5% to contain inflation — in other words, we need two years of 7.5% unemployment or five years of 6% unemployment or one year of 10% unemployment."

At the time, the unemployment rate was a historically low 3.6%. It was 3.7% in May, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Even though many respected economists recognize that if this relationship exists, it holds only in the very short term, the Phillips curve "has been the foundation of monetary policy for decades," as Christopher J. Waller, a member of the Fed Board of Governors, observed in a March 31 speech.

The truth, Waller said, is that "if you simply plot inflation against the unemployment rate over the past 50 years, ... there does not appear to be any statistically significant correlation between the two series."

In other words, there's no reason to assume that wage increases are a contributor to inflation. In an interview April 19 on NPR's

"Marketplace" program, Chicago Fed President Austan Goolsbee described the wage-price issue as a classic riddle along the lines of which came first — the chicken or the egg? "For sure, wage growth and price growth are tied together," he said. The question is "are wages a leading or a lagging indicator of price inflation?" His answer was the latter.

That has been the case during the recent era of high inflation. Although wages have been rising over the last year in nominal terms, workers' gains have been eroded by inflation, month after month.

According to the most recent wage report by the BLS, earnings increased by an average of 3.4% in May, compared with a year earlier. *Real* wages, however — accounting for inflation — fell by 0.7%. Adjusted for inflation, average weekly earnings in May fell from the previous month by 0.085%, to \$378.18 from \$378.50.

None of this could be a surprise to policymakers at the Fed. "Labor-cost growth has no meaningful effect on goods or housing services inflation," economist Adam Hale Shapiro of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco reported in a May 30 paper. At most, Shapiro calculated, wages accounted for 0.1 percentage point of the recent inflation surge.

Shapiro wrote that his findings "cast some doubt on the narrative that labor-cost growth is by itself an important driver of NHS [non-housing] price inflation." He noted, as did Goolsbee, that "wage growth tends to follow inflation."

That leaves the question

of why Fed policymakers still act as though reducing employment and slowing, even reversing, wage growth will be good for the economy overall. One answer is that preserving employment is not part of the Fed's legal mandate.

"Policies to support labor supply are not the domain of the Fed," Powell acknowledged in a speech last November. Its monetary policy tools, he said, are aimed at controlling demand — raising interest rates quells the demand for housing by making mortgages more expensive and reduces consumers' purchasing power by forcing credit card rates higher and empowering retailers to raise prices.

Powell has answered questions about the impact of the Fed's interest rate hikes on the labor market by taking the long view. He describes the effort to reduce inflation as the quest for "price stability," which he represents as the Fed's ultimate goal.

"Without price stability, the economy does not work for anyone," he said at his May news conference. "In particular, without price stability, we will not achieve a sustained period of strong labor market conditions that benefit all."

In other words, if the Fed's medicine is sufficiently harsh, the patients will eventually recover. But what if the pain is too great for some patients to live through?

Hiltzik writes a blog on latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or on Twitter @hiltzikm or email michael.hiltzik@latimes.com.

Pariah or partner? U.S. navigates Saudi relationship

Human rights, oil production, security needs and ties with Israel are mixed in a contradictory agenda.

BY TRACY WILKINSON

WASHINGTON — Visits to Saudi Arabia by high-profile U.S. officials are always problematic. The two countries have a love-hate relationship.

Politicians and the public criticize the Saudi kingdom's human rights record and repression of women; its unwillingness to increase oil production; its coziness with Russia, China and, now, even with erstwhile enemy Iran.

But the U.S. and Saudi Arabia also need each other — for trade and for broader security arrangements in the Middle East, including conflicts in Yemen and Sudan, where they work together to broker cease-fires or deliver humanitarian aid to devastated populations.

And the Biden administration is fervently coaxing Riyadh to establish diplomatic ties with Israel, following similar Trump-era breakthrough gestures by a small number of other gulf or Muslim nations.

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken wrapped up a four-day visit to the Saudi cities of Jeddah and Riyadh last week, which included a midnight meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Salman, the de facto ruler of the nation, is a ruthless dictator, a bold reformer or both, depending on whom you ask. The 37-year-old prince is largely considered responsible for the brutal killing and dismemberment of U.S.-based Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul in 2018. President Biden once called Salman a pariah and vowed to shun him, a pledge eventually reversed in a famous fist bump between the two last year.

Executions of perceived enemies of the kingdom have surged under Salman's rule, human rights activists say, and reports of arbitrary detention and torture of activists, including many women, persist — even as he lifted some anachronistic restrictions on women, such as allowing them to drive cars.

Despite the litany of



Saudi Press Agency

CROWN PRINCE Mohammed bin Salman and President Biden fist-bump in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in July. Critics fault the Biden administration for failing to more robustly denounce Saudi abuses publicly.

Saudi transgressions, the Biden administration is engaging with the kingdom as a way to demonstrate it still has influence in the Middle East — at a time many in the region note Washington has been absent in consequential events and decisions and as China and Russia flex their diplomatic and military muscle where the U.S. was once the unrivaled superpower.

"I would say that my presence here over the last three days is one element to demonstrate that, no, we're certainly not leaving. We're here to stay," Blinken told the Saudi-based Asharq News network Thursday when asked about the U.S. commitment to the region.

"Day in, day out, we're working with partners throughout the region ... both to deal with many of the challenges that ... are real and urgent and acute, but also — and this is so important — on an affirmative agenda for the future," Blinken added. "We are a partner, and we're here."

Blinken, in a separate news conference in Riyadh, said he "discussed" human rights in his meetings with Salman and other Saudi officials and "made clear that progress on human rights strengthens our relationship."

He said he raised "specific" cases, including those of several U.S. citizens who are

imprisoned in the kingdom, but would not say whether he had secured guarantees of their freedom nor would he enter into any other details.

Critics accuse the Biden administration of papering over Saudi abuses and fault it for not denouncing them more robustly, which in turn emboldens Salman.

"The administration needs to abandon its behind-closed-doors approach to addressing human rights" in Saudi Arabia, said Tess McEnery, who served on Biden's National Security Council until last year and now heads the nongovernmental Project on Middle East Democracy. "There need to be clear public costs to [Salman's] repression. ... For nearly a year [since the Biden visit], we've seen what a policy of appeasement looks like."

The Biden administration sanctioned some members of the Saudi security apparatus for the 2018 murder of Washington Post contributing columnist Khashoggi, but not Salman, whom U.S. intelligence officials believe probably ordered the killing.

In Congress, lawmakers have revived legislation that could block arms sales to Saudi Arabia based on its human rights record, and two measures have been proposed that would punish governments for "transna-

tional repression," the illegal pursuit by a country outside its borders of dissidents or critics, as happened with Khashoggi. It is a tactic also frequently used by Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose government has been accused of hunting down and poisoning opponents in England and elsewhere.

While in Saudi Arabia last week, Blinken also came under criticism for praising what he called Saudi "progress" on its treatment of women, lauding the first female Saudi astronaut to go into space and meeting with eight handpicked Saudi women identified by the State Department as leaders. Blinken's remarks came even as numerous Saudi women are being given decades-long prison sentences for what supporters say are minor offenses, such as failing to wear an abaya on social media or tweeting criticisms of the kingdom.

Substantial progress for women "is only a narrative that the Saudi government is selling to the West," Lina AlHathloul, a longtime Saudi activist fighting for women's rights and free speech, said in an interview from Brussels, where she has sought refuge from her government. "It is only window dressing. ... And the government sees a green light to double down on repression."

AlHathloul campaigned for years to free her sister

Loujain, who was arrested in 2018 for driving. Loujain is out of prison now but banned from traveling or speaking publicly.

Though women have been granted the right to drive and some access to elections, Saudi Arabia's so-called guardianship rules remain in place, which restrict many activities such as travel or marriage for women without a male relative's permission.

Saudi officials insist that they have made significant progress in human rights, but will only advance on their own terms.

"We are always open to having a dialogue with our friends, but we don't respond to pressure," Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan said at the Riyadh news conference with Blinken. "When we do anything, we do it in our own interests. And I don't think that anybody believes that pressure is useful or helpful, and therefore that's not something that we are going to even consider."

One reason the Biden administration seeks to keep its relationship with Saudi Arabia on a cordial keel is the role the oil-rich kingdom can play in integrating Israel into a region that has long refused to recognize Israel's existence.

The Trump administration brokered the Abraham Accords, under which the

United Arab Emirates and Bahrain for the first time opened diplomatic and economic ties with Israel.

As the powerhouse of the gulf, Saudi Arabia would be a prized addition to the declaration, but it is so far resisting. Saudi officials cite the continued failure to resolve the Palestinian quest for an independent state. Riyadh has also listed a series of high-stake demands, including U.S. help in developing nuclear power, but U.S. officials see that as an opening gambit.

Meanwhile, the current Israeli government is the most right-wing in its history, with possibilities for progress on the Palestinian cause considered nonexistent.

In Riyadh last week, Blinken said Saudi-Israeli normalization remained a "priority." But the Saudi foreign minister countered that while desirable, the goal would remain remote "without finding a pathway to peace for the Palestinian people ... a pathway towards a two-state solution, on finding a pathway towards giving the Palestinians dignity and justice."

It would also be a bad look for the Saudis to get closer to Israel at a time when deadly clashes and attacks are surging in Israel, the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and after several incursions by Israeli police into the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, said Khaled Elgindy, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Middle East Institute. Al Aqsa is the third-holiest site in Islam, located in an area also sacred to Jews.

"The Saudis are not in a hurry to normalize," he said, even as "the Biden administration has prioritized it higher on the list than [an independent state] for the Palestinians, which is now just a talking point."

Shira Efron, research director at the U.S.-based Israel Policy Forum, said that while Israel badly wants to enjoy the fruits of normalization, the pieces of the puzzle remain exceedingly complicated, with U.S. and Israel reluctant to accede to the Saudis' most robust demands.

"And if the U.S. and Saudi Arabia were able to agree on what the U.S. will give, would Congress approve?" she said, adding that room for negotiation is likely to shrink as the U.S. presidential election gets into full swing.

THE WORLD

Putin threatens to seize more land for buffer zone

The Russian leader says Ukraine suffered huge losses, but a U.S. official called his remarks ‘not accurate.’

By JAMEY KEATEN

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested Tuesday that he could order his troops to try to seize more land in Ukraine to protect bordering Russian territory — a threat with questionable credibility because the Kremlin lacks full control over areas it already annexed.

In some of his most detailed remarks about the war in months, the Russian leader also asserted that Ukrainian forces had suffered “catastrophic” losses in a new counteroffensive, and he said he was not contemplating a new troop mobilization, as many Russians have feared. But he did not rule out another troop call-up later. And he reiterated Russia’s disputed claim that Ukraine was responsible for blowing up a Dnipro River



Dnipro Regional Administration

AT LEAST 11 people were killed in a Russian missile strike on Kryvyi Rih, Ukrainian officials said.

dam that caused vast flooding on both sides of the front line last week in the country’s south.

Putin’s comments at an open meeting with military journalists and bloggers followed Kyiv’s announcement that Ukrainian troops had captured a handful of villages in the early stages of a counteroffensive as they seek to push Russian troops out of four regions of Ukraine that the Kremlin illegally annexed last fall. The meeting, which lasted more than two hours, came after

Russian missile strikes in central Ukraine killed at least 11 people overnight.

Putin said Ukraine’s counteroffensive has been unsuccessful. He asserted that Ukraine lost 160 tanks and more than 360 other armored vehicles, while Russia lost 54 tanks since the new assault began. Those numbers could not be immediately verified. Ukrainian officials typically do not comment on losses.

The White House offered no immediate reaction to Putin’s statement.

A U.S. official familiar with American intelligence said Putin’s comments were “not accurate” and cautioned against putting any stock in Russia’s public assessments. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to offer an internal assessment, did not detail how Putin’s claims were misleading.

Referring to alleged Ukrainian incursions into Russia and shelling of border regions, Putin said he was considering whether “to create on Ukrainian territory a kind of sanitary zone at such a distance from which it would be impossible to get our territory.”

It was not clear whether Russia — which failed to capture Kyiv and its surroundings early in the war and later had to give up other territory it had captured, even in annexed areas — could afford to risk expanding its gains in Ukraine while trying to repel the evolving counteroffensive in several sectors of the more than 600-mile front line.

In recent weeks, Russia’s border areas have come under increasing attack, with the Kremlin blaming Ukrainian forces for incur-

sions of fighters and drone strikes.

Ukrainian authorities have not confirmed Kyiv’s involvement in the attacks but have obliquely welcomed them. Russian volunteer units sympathizing with Ukraine have claimed responsibility for the incursions.

Local leaders in Russia have pleaded with the Kremlin to do more to protect residents, some of whom have been evacuated to safer areas.

Putin acknowledged that Russian authorities should have foreseen and prepared to stop such attacks. Earlier in the war, the border was better protected because Russia held more adjacent Ukrainian territory, but Kremlin forces withdrew from much of it last fall under the brunt of a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Putin’s long meeting with military bloggers, along with war correspondents from traditional news media, was a significant acknowledgment of their importance in conveying the Kremlin’s viewpoint.

In other remarks, Putin said Russia’s defense industry has ratcheted up produc-

tion of drones and other weapons but needs more, and the West is also struggling to produce more weapons and ammunition.

While Putin spoke, the State Department announced that the United States would send Ukraine a new military aid package worth up to \$325 million, including rockets, missiles and other munitions.

Putin mocked alleged Ukrainian battlefield losses, including of high-tech Western equipment Kyiv has received. He said German-made Leopard 2 battle tanks and U.S.-made Bradley infantry fighting vehicles “are burning really well.”

Ukrainian officials have been nearly as forceful as Putin in vowing to win the war, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky insisting his people will not relent until all of Ukraine is liberated from Russian control.

Contrasting with Putin’s dim view of Ukraine’s progress in its counteroffensive, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told President Biden on Tuesday that Ukrainians are “making progress,” and that could bolster their position in any peace talks.

Ukrainian authorities said at least 11 people were killed and 36 wounded overnight in a Russian missile strike on the city of Kryvyi Rih, Zelensky’s hometown. Images relayed by Zelensky on his Telegram channel showed firefighters battling a blaze at an apartment building. Charred and damaged vehicles littered the ground.

“More terrorist missiles,” he wrote. “Russian killers continue their war against residential buildings, ordinary cities and people.”

Keaten writes for the Associated Press. AP writers Aamer Madhani and Andrew Katell, in Washington and New York, respectively, contributed to this report.

Helicopter accident in Syria injures 22 American troops

‘No enemy fire was reported’ in incident, the U.S. military says.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT — A helicopter accident in northeastern Syria over the weekend left 22 American service members injured, the U.S. military said Tuesday, adding that the cause was under investigation and no hostile fire was involved.

The military statement said the service members

were receiving treatment and 10 were moved to “higher care facilities” outside the region.

“A helicopter mishap in northeastern Syria resulted in the injuries of various degrees of 22 U.S. service members,” it said. “No enemy fire was reported.”

Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said at a media briefing that the mishap involved a single MH-47 Chinook helicopter. The Chinook “had a problem with one rotor that caused a hard landing during takeoff,” Singh said.

All of the service mem-

bers injured were in stable condition, she said.

A spokesman for the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment.

At least 900 U.S. forces are in Syria, on average, along with an undisclosed number of contractors. U.S. special operations forces also move in and out of the country but are usually in small teams and are not included in the official count.

U.S. forces have been in Syria since 2015 to advise and assist the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces in the

fight against the militant group Islamic State. Since the extremist group was defeated in Syria in March 2019, U.S. troops have been trying to prevent any comeback by Islamic State, which swept through Iraq and Syria in 2014, taking control of large swaths of territory.

However, Islamic State sleeper cells remain a threat. About 10,000 of the group’s fighters are held in detention facilities in Syria and tens of thousands of their family members live in two refugee camps in the country’s northeast.

In recent years, U.S.

troops have been targeted in attacks by Islamic State members and Iran-backed fighters there. In March, a drone attack on a U.S. base killed a contractor and wounded five American troops and another contractor. In retaliation, U.S. fighter jets struck several locations around the eastern province of Dair Alzour.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III said at the time that the strikes were a response to the drone attack as well as attacks against U.S.-led forces in Syria by groups affiliated with Iran’s Revolutionary Guard.

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Hit Taiwanese show is a China-free zone

A new Netflix political drama puts women at the fore — with mainland strife conspicuously absent.

By Stephanie Yang and David Shen

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Plagiarism rumors. Election rallies featuring inflated batons and cheers for “frozen garlic.” Boozy karaoke after-parties.

A popular new Netflix drama set in Taipei depicts all the hallmarks of a Taiwanese political campaign, with one glaring omission: debate over how to handle China.

That existential question is looming over Taiwan’s actual presidential election, to be held in January. While China has long declared the self-ruled island a part of its territory, relations between Beijing and Taipei have deteriorated to their worst state in decades, raising the risk of military conflict.

But the eight-part series “Wave Makers” makes no mention of cross-strait relations, focusing instead on the everyday lives of campaign staffers trying to get their candidate elected president of Taiwan.

For some fans, that’s a large part of its appeal. For the show’s creators, it was a conscious decision to keep their fictional drama from getting swallowed up by real-world events — though, in an ironic twist, “Wave Makers” is causing ripples in the real-life Taiwanese political scene.

“It’s kind of like an alternative universe — how Taiwanese politics could look like if, and only if, China weren’t an issue,” said Chieh-ting Yeh, director of the think tank US Taiwan Watch. “At least to me, it’s quite refreshing.”

The show follows Weng Wen-fang, a gay senior staffer with the opposition party who is grappling with her future in politics after her loss in a local council race. She befriends recent recruit Chang Ya-ching, supporting the younger woman through a sexual harassment claim at work and the fallout from an affair with a prominent politician. Others in the office struggle with work-life balance and waning idealism.

When the first episode opened with a political rally in Taipei — featuring attendees waving party flags and shouting “*dongsuan*,” Taiwanese slang for “win the election” that translates literally as “frozen garlic” — 34-year-old Lee Meng-huah assumed that talk of China would soon crop up. She was pleasantly surprised that it never did.

Lee, a Tainan-based pharmaceutical worker,



A SCENE from Netflix’s “Wave Makers,” a political drama that avoids mention of tensions with China, even as they loom over Taiwan’s real-world election.

considers herself indifferent to politics and usually prefers Korean dramas to Taiwanese ones. But on her husband’s recommendation, she began to watch “Wave Makers” and found herself sympathizing with the characters. As a mother of two, she understands what it’s like to juggle work and family, and she recalled a similar sexual harassment complaint unfolding in a previous workplace.

“It’s written very close to the kinds of problems we encounter in our lives,” she said. “If it had explored cross-strait relations or the question of Taiwan’s independence, I think it would have muddled the point of the whole show.”

Political dramas like “Wave Makers” are a rarity for Taiwan. The legacy of martial law, which was in place until 1987, and the desire for access to the mainland Chinese market have made political portrayals particularly sensitive.

The works that do exist are often rooted in historical events, such as the four-decade postwar “White Terror” era of mass suppression and brutality under the Nationalist Party. A well-received series from 2020, “Island Nation,” is set in the 1990s during Taiwan’s transition to democracy.

For modern-day inspiration, “Wave Makers” screenwriters Chien Li-ying and Peng Wei-chao (better known by her pen name, Cynical Chick) turned to U.S. shows like “The West Wing,” “House of Cards” and “Veep,” as well as Korean political dramas.

But choosing to leave out any reference to the biggest geopolitical challenge facing Taiwan today didn’t come easily.

“We struggled with this decision for a long time,” said Chien. “If there’s no cross-strait relations, then it’s not realistic. But it’s also difficult because you don’t want it to become some-

thing where this side or that side doesn’t watch. And once you bring it up, whatever else you talk about, no one will care.”

Ultimately, the writers prioritized mass appeal — and making the politics of the show as apolitical as possible.

Whereas the plot originally pitted against each other a male and female presidential candidate, both were rewritten as women to avoid direct comparison of a lone female contestant with President Tsai Ing-wen. One of those characters takes a rare stance against the death penalty — an issue that cuts across party lines.

Off screen, Taiwan’s relationship with China is one of the most contentious and defining issues that presidential candidates will have to grapple with in the January election.

While the majority of Taiwanese support preserving the status quo, politicians are deeply divided on how to do so as tensions worsen, even within their own

parties.

During Tsai’s eight years in power, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party has strengthened ties with the U.S. as its relationship with Beijing has grown chillier. Detractors of the party, which leans toward independence for Taiwan, worry that too much confrontation could further provoke China’s ire.

The Nationalist Party, better known as the Kuomintang, or KMT, favors closer cooperation with Beijing and is more open to unification with mainland China. While the party argues that it’s better suited to leadership because Beijing is more willing to engage with its officials, many voters are wary of becoming too friendly with an authoritarian government that considers the island its rightful territory.

According to a May poll by the Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation, the DPP presidential candidate Lai Ching-te leads the race, with 35.8% approval, fol-

3 stabbed to death, 3 hit by van in U.K.

The dead include two college students, both 19, in Nottingham. Police chase and arrest one suspect.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — A knife-wielding assailant stabbed two college students to death in the streets of the English city of Nottingham and then fatally stabbed a middle-aged man, stole his van and ran down three pedestrians in a shocking rampage early Tuesday morning, police said.

Police arrested a 31-year-old man on suspicion of murder. The Nottinghamshire Police force said investigators believe the perpetrator acted alone and detectives were working with counterterrorism officers to try to establish a motive.

“This is a horrific and tragic incident which has claimed the lives of three people,” Chief Constable Kate Meynell said.

A man who was among the people struck in the hit-and-run was hospitalized in critical condition. The dead included two 19-year-old students from the University of Nottingham.

“All of us at Nottingham are deeply shocked and saddened by the deaths of two of our students,” Vice Chancellor Shearer West said in a statement.

A graduation ball scheduled for Tuesday evening was canceled. Many college students joined a vigil at St.



A FORENSIC police team works in Nottingham, England, after the attacks. The motive is unknown.

Peter’s Church, in the city center, late Tuesday to mourn the victims. Some lighted candles, while others laid flowers beneath the altar.

The knife attack on the students occurred around dawn in an area near student housing a short walk from the university’s Jubilee Campus. A caller reported that two stabbing victims were lying in the street.

Police think the attacker then killed a man in his 50s and took his van, Meynell said. The man’s body was found on a different street more than a mile from the first crime scene.

About 90 minutes after the initial attack, witnesses were horrified as they watched the van plow into pedestrians and flee.

Lynn Haggitt was on her way to work when a white van pulled up beside her at 5:30 a.m. She saw the driver look in his mirror and spot a police car approaching slowly from behind without

lowed by the KMT’s Hou Yu-ih, with 27.6%, and Ko Wen-je of the Taiwan People’s Party, with 25.1%. Ko, who founded the TPP four years ago, has tried to position himself as the middle-ground alternative between the DPP and KMT.

Despite keeping the real world at arm’s length, “Wave Makers” has roiled Taiwanese politics all the same, helping spur a #MeToo-type reckoning a month after its release. Last week, a former DPP staffer, inspired by the show, accused her former supervisor of mishandling a sexual harassment complaint she made in 2022. Several more staff members made similar allegations within the ruling party.

Tsai apologized to the victims as the former chairperson of the DPP, and some accused officials have resigned. Lai, the DPP’s presidential candidate, said the party would take a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment, quoting a popular line from “Wave Makers” in his apology: “We won’t just let it go.”

The KMT’s candidate, Hou, said his party would handle reports of sexual harassment rigorously after a legislator and former researcher at a party-affiliated think tank were accused as well.

In mainland China, where Netflix is blocked and “Wave Makers” is omitted from the biggest movie review site, posts about the show were viewed more than 110 million times on social media before they were censored.

Comments applauded the show’s focus on progressive issues, such as sexual harassment and same-sex marriage. China’s own #MeToo movement has stalled under heavy censorship, and resources for queer communities have grown scarce as the government has increased pressure on civil society. For some viewers,

the existence of a Chinese-language drama about a presidential election also highlighted the political differences between Taiwan and China.

One person from Guangdong wrote about the complicated emotional reaction on Weibo, China’s Twitter-like platform: “It’s not quite the same as watching ‘The Good Wife’ or ‘The Good Fight.’ Seeing the people on screen speaking Chinese, saying they use elections to fight, denouncing workplace inequality ... you see the same cultural background growing into two completely different forms.”

Chien and Peng didn’t expect to start a movement, or reach Chinese audiences, when they started writing the script in 2019 with the goal of spotlighting women’s experiences. With funding from Taiwan’s Public Television Service and the Taiwan Creative Content Agency, founded by the Ministry of Culture to support Taiwanese content, they finished production before showing the first two episodes to Netflix in November. “Wave Makers” appeared on the platform five months later.

The screenwriters, who have started work on a second season, said streaming services like Netflix have allowed the local industry to experiment with more themes and take chances on riskier projects like “Wave Makers.”

The services have also broadened potential international influence, something that became clearer to the writers after the show was released.

“Actually, our show can let the world know Taiwan is a real place, not just a pawn between major powers or a chipmaker,” Peng said. “So although it is a drama, it has even more value than that.”

Yang is a Times staff writer. Shen is a special correspondent.

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Official says she made decision after getting threats in border city.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — The mayor of the Mexican border city of Tijuana said she has decided to live at an army base for her own safety, after she received threats.

Mayor Montserrat Ca-

ballero announced the decision after confirming that police had found seven corpses stuffed in a pickup truck Monday.

“I have received threats, so I am going to live at the base,” Caballero said. Local media reported that the army base is on the southern edge of Tijuana, about five miles from City Hall.

Caballero did not say who made the threats. But it is well known that several drug cartels are waging turf

battles in Tijuana, across the border from San Diego.

Killings in Tijuana have increased by about 9% in the last 12 months, according to the federal public safety department. Tijuana has more homicides than any other city in Mexico, with 1,818 killings in the 12-month period ending in May.

Caballero has acknowledged the cartels’ strong presence in the past. In 2022, after gangs carjacked and burned at least 15 vehicles

throughout the city, she made a direct public appeal to stop targeting civilians.

“Today we are saying to the organized crime groups that are committing these crimes, that Tijuana is going to remain open and take care of its citizens,” Caballero said in a video last year, adding that “we also ask them to settle their debts with those who didn’t pay what they owe, not with families and hardworking citizens.”



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THE NATION

Administration urges states to slow Medicaid cuts

After over 1 million lose coverage, Becerra asks governors to help keep eligible residents enrolled.

By Hannah Recht

Too many Americans are losing Medicaid coverage due to red tape, and states should do more to make sure eligible people keep their health insurance, the Biden administration said this week.

More than a million people have lost coverage under the program for low-income and disabled Americans in the last several weeks, following the end of pandemic protections on April 1, according to the latest Medicaid renewal data from more than 20 states.

After a three-year pause, most states have resumed checking which Medicaid recipients remain eligible and



MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

A VENICE FAMILY CLINIC worker calls a state agency to help a Medicaid user restore her coverage.

dropping those who no longer qualify or don't complete required paperwork. About 4 in 5 people who have been dropped either never returned the paperwork or omitted required documents, federal and state data show.

Xavier Becerra, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, decried those numbers in a letter sent to state governors on Monday.

"I am deeply concerned with the number of people unnecessarily losing cover-

age, especially those who appear to have lost coverage for avoidable reasons that State Medicaid offices have the power to prevent or mitigate," he wrote.

The Biden administration outlined several optional steps states can take to ensure everyone who still qualifies for the safety-net health insurance program stays covered.

For instance, state officials can pause the cancellations to allow more time to reach people who haven't responded to them. And health insurance companies that manage Medicaid plans can help their enrollees fill out the paperwork.

Some states were already choosing to allow extra time. Though Wyoming began renewals in May, state officials are being "deliberately cautious" and won't drop people for incomplete paperwork until July or August, state Health Department spokesperson Kim Deti said. And Oregon won't start its cancellations until October.

Officials in other states have shown no eagerness to slow the cuts.

In Arkansas, about 10% of enrollees in Medicaid and CHIP, the federal Children's Health Insurance Program, have already been dropped, nearly all because they did not complete paperwork. The state is speeding through the redetermination process in just six months, while most are taking about a year, as the federal Health and Human Services Department recommended.

Despite outcry from some federal lawmakers and advocates, Medicaid officials in Arkansas wrote on June 8 that they would continue to "swiftly disenroll" people who no longer qualify.

That could be disastrous, said Joan Alker, executive director of Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families.

"We could lose millions of families quickly," she said. "It's going to be very hard to get them back."

Becerra wrote that he is "particularly concerned" about children losing coverage, although the administration doesn't know exactly how many kids have been dropped.

States don't have to report numbers by age to federal authorities, said Dan Tsai, director of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services. But tens of thousands of children are losing coverage, according to data from states that shared it.

In Indiana, of the 53,000 people dropped in the first month, one-third were children. In South Dakota, more than half were kids. In Arkansas, nearly 55,000 kids were dropped in the first two months.

Becerra also urged governors to work more directly with families at risk of losing coverage, writing that state agencies should team up with schools, pharmacies, faith groups and other community organizations to help enrollees better understand how to stay on Medicaid.

In most states, people who qualify for Medicaid but lose coverage due to state errors or incomplete paperwork have 90 days to ask for their coverage back — so some officials don't view the large number of paperwork-related cancellations as a big problem.

But it's not that simple, Alker said. Many people don't know their appeal rights, and the grace period doesn't apply to all adults in several of the hardest-hit states.

Alker said that while states will temporarily save money by reducing the number of people covered, former enrollees won't be able to afford their medications, and some will become sicker and end up in emergency rooms.

"There's really nothing good that comes out of these gaps in coverage," she said.

Recht writes for KFF Health News.

Online asylum appointments halted at Texas crossing

Associated Press

MALLEN, Texas — The Biden administration said Tuesday that the reason it has halted online asylum appointments at the international crossing in Laredo, Texas, was because of the "security situation" across the border in the Mexican city of Nuevo Laredo.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement emailed to the Associated Press that the government also took into account other unspecified "operational factors, including relatively low demand for appointments for that location."

The government released the statement a day

after AP reported the change, which took effect June 3 at the Laredo port of entry. Humanitarian groups in Laredo said they recently warned the administration in meetings both in person and on Zoom about people controlling access to the port of entry on the Mexican side and migrants reporting being extortion targets after flying to Nuevo Laredo.

Asylum seekers said that Mexican immigration officials in Nuevo Laredo took their travel documents and threatened to make them miss their scheduled asylum appointments if they did not pay them.

Nuevo Laredo is located in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, which Americans have been warned to

avoid by the U.S. Department of State. Bordering the southern tip of Texas, Tamaulipas is a key area of the cartel del Noreste, formerly known as the Gulf cartel.

The Border Patrol did not provide details about the security situation in Nuevo Laredo or what sets it apart from other Mexican border cities, including Tijuana, whose mayor decided this month to seek refuge at an army base for her own safety. Tijuana, across from San Diego, has one of the highest homicide rates in Mexico and is among the ports of entry along the border receiving the highest number of asylum appointments through the CBP One app. The Mexican president

said the mayor along with the governor of the state of Baja California, where Tijuana is located, have received threats from organized crime.

Thousands of asylum seekers are stuck in Mexican border towns, waiting until they can get an appointment to seek refuge in the U.S. after being blocked during the COVID-19 pandemic by a public health restriction called Title 42. The restriction was lifted last month.

Though the government opened some new avenues for immigration, the fate of many people is largely left to the CBP One app that is used for scheduling an appointment at a port of entry.

The government said it would continue to open 1,250

appointments daily by re-allocating the slots for Laredo to the seven other crossings along the border. It vowed to honor online appointments issued for the Laredo crossing before the June 3 change. The government schedules appointments two weeks out.

Customs and Border Protection gives priority to people with an app appointment, though people can try to be admitted by going in person without one. Anyone who has an acute medical condition or is under an immediate threat of kidnapping or death also can ask to be admitted in person.

Laredo saw only a fraction of appointments compared with San Diego and Brownsville, Texas.



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Trump is booked, released in federal case

[Trump, from A1]

The indictment states that Trump kept the records in unsecured areas of his Florida estate, including in a bathroom, a ballroom and a storage room. The Mar-a-Lago property is a private club that hosts thousands of people each year.

According to the indictment, top-secret and other classified records that the FBI recovered after a subpoena and a search of the property included details on U.S. and foreign nations' nuclear and other defense and weapons capabilities, potential vulnerabilities of the U.S. and its allies to military attack, and plans for possible retaliation in response to such an attack.

The indictment also details two instances in which Trump discussed and shared classified documents with people who did not have security clearances.

Trump is charged with willful retention of national defense information, conspiracy to obstruct justice, withholding documents or records, corruptly concealing documents in a federal investigation, scheming to conceal, and making false statements and representations.

In a post on his Truth Social platform hours before his appearance, Trump called Smith a "thug" and accused him, his friends and his family of planting evidence in the case. He also questioned why Smith had not reviewed allegations against President Biden and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, which Smith does not have the authority to review.

Nauta faces charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice, withholding documents or records, corruptly concealing documents in a federal investigation, scheming to conceal, and making false statements and representations. His arraignment was delayed for several weeks after he was unable to secure local counsel.

The case is assigned to federal Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee who was criticized for her rulings in his favor last year and assigning a special master to review the seized classified records. Her rulings, which delayed the investigation for several weeks, were overturned by the U.S. 11th



CHANDAN KHANNA AFP/Getty Images

EX-PRESIDENT TRUMP, leaving court Tuesday after his arrest and hearing in Miami, is free to travel despite the nature of the charges.

'Today cannot be viewed as just another day in the typical flurry that surrounds Donald Trump's shocking words and actions.'

— REP. SALUD CARBAJAL, (D-Santa Barbara), pointing to the gravity of the charges

Circuit Court of Appeals, which said that she never had the legal authority to intervene.

Smith said last week that he would seek a speedy trial. That will largely depend on Cannon, who has significant control over the calendar, jury selection and what evidence will be allowed.

Blanche and fellow attorney Chris Kise represented Trump at the arraignment.

The former president's previous legal team resigned Friday after his indictment became public.

Trump was placed under arrest when he surrendered to federal authorities on Tuesday before his arraignment. A spokesman for the U.S. Marshals Service told the Associated Press that the agency had enough photos of Trump, so did not take his mugshot for booking. Trump's digital fingerprints were taken and his birth date and Social Security number were recorded, the spokesman said.

This is the second time this spring that Trump has been in court to enter a not-guilty plea. He was indicted in New York City in March on charges related to an alleged hush money payment to a porn actor in the final days of the 2016 campaign. He also faces two ongoing criminal inquiries into his role in 2020 election interference.

Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) urged Americans not to tune out the case.

"Today cannot be viewed as just another day in the typical flurry that surrounds Donald Trump's shocking words and actions. The charges filed against the former president include major violations of our national security and serious evidence of criminal obstruction. If filed against someone else, the gravity of the case laid out against them would be immediately apparent," Carbajal said in a statement.

Trump and his allies have repeatedly called the charges a witch hunt intended to keep him from winning back the presidency in 2024.

On Monday, he said in a social media post that if elected, he'll appoint a "special prosecutor" to go after people including Biden and his family. A president does not have the power to appoint a special counsel; that authority lies with the U.S. attorney general.

Miami Police Chief Manuel Morales said at a news conference Monday that his

officers were prepared for a crowd of up to 50,000 people outside the court Tuesday, but the few hundred protesters and counterprotesters who showed up were outnumbered by members of the media.

The circus-like atmosphere outside court was the only view of the day's events that most Americans will see. The magistrate judge refused a request by media outlets, including The Times, to allow photos and videos of the unprecedented proceedings. Cecilia Altonaga, chief U.S. judge for the Southern District of Florida, separately banned reporters from carrying any electronics into the courtroom.

Outside the courthouse, the former president's supporters chanted, "Free Donald Trump!" and "USA!" while waving "Make America Great Again" flags. Opponents held signs that read, "Trump, you are not above the law" and "31 counts of espionage/Lock him up!"

Trump's campaign issued a fundraising appeal

during his arraignment, vowing that he would never drop out of the 2024 race.

Attorney Alina Habba, speaking for Trump, made incendiary remarks outside the courthouse, reiterating false claims by other surrogates of the former president.

"The people in charge of this country do not love America. They hate Donald Trump," she said.

A man dressed in prison stripes and holding an orange sign that read "Lock him up" charged Trump's motorcade as it departed, and was quickly arrested.

Soon after leaving the courthouse, Trump was back to campaigning, visiting a Cuban restaurant where supporters had gathered. Some restaurant patrons sang "Happy Birthday" to the former president, who turns 77 on Wednesday.

"Some birthday," Trump said.

Wire reported from Washington and Lin from Los Angeles.

Julie Su faces an uphill bid for Labor position in Cabinet

Californian lacks the votes in a closely split Senate to become the first Asian American secretary under Biden.

By OWEN TUCKER-SMITH

Former California labor chief Julie Su's bid to become President Biden's Labor secretary is languishing, showing how hard it can be for a progressive Californian to win Senate confirmation in a deeply divided Washington.

Su, who would be Biden's first Asian American Cabinet secretary, faces fierce GOP opposition and will need unanimous or near-unanimous support from the Senate Democratic caucus to win confirmation. But although Biden picked Su for the job in February, Sens. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.), Kyrsten Sinema (I-Ariz.) and Jon Tester (D-Mont.) have yet to make up their minds. Manchin, Sinema and Tester are up for reelection in 2024, raising the stakes of their decisions.

"We're not there yet," Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), a longtime champion of Su, told The Times on Monday. "We are going to push for the votes that she needs, and that's it. Whatever is the reluctance, we need to address them and get her over the hurdle."

A group called Stand Against Su, which describes itself as "a coalition of small businesses, freelancers, tipped workers and franchisees working together to oppose Julie Su," paid for billboard ads in key senators' states attacking Su. "Biden nominee Julie Su wants to turn Montana into California," reads one ad. "Biden nominee Julie Su wants to turn the lights off in West Virginia," another



ALEX WONG Getty Images

NOMINEE Julie Su is "probably more than qualified" to be Labor secretary but is "caught in a battle that we see ... at every level of politics," one strategist said.

warns.

In press statements, Republicans have described Su as an anti-business policymaker who supports laws that make it harder for employers and employees to do their jobs. They've tied her to Assembly Bill 5, a California law that requires companies to classify most workers as employees, not independent contractors. They argue that, if confirmed, Su would advance similar policies on a national level, preventing gig workers from taking on jobs they want. Su has said she will not pursue a national equivalent of AB 5.

Republicans also have pointed to Su's oversight of California's Employment Development Department, which in 2021 reported \$20 billion in fraudulent unemployment claims. Her supporters say Su inherited an already broken system when she took over the department, and they note that employment fraud rose across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Because of her misguided record in California, we have major concerns about potential disastrous ramifications at the federal level if Ms. Su becomes Secretary. For these reasons, we request that you withdraw her nomination to serve as your next Secretary of Labor," House Republicans, including Speaker Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield, wrote in an April letter to President Biden.

Before arriving in Washington, Su rapidly rose through the ranks of labor regulators, spending seven years at the helm of California's Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Two years ago, the Senate voted along party lines to confirm Su as deputy secretary of Labor. Those familiar with Su say she hasn't changed since then. But the political climate has shifted, making her confirmation less certain.

"I don't think anything has changed with regard to her qualifications or her

ability to do the job," said Bill Wong, a longtime Democratic strategist. "I think what has changed is the political calculus Republicans are banking on in order to try to take over the Senate."

Blocking Su's nomination serves an important political purpose for Republicans, Wong added: The GOP wants to "make the presidency look weak by stonewalling any of his nominations."

White House aides remain convinced they can ensure Su's confirmation.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Tuesday afternoon that the "full-court press" to confirm Su that the White House announced last month is still underway. Senior White House officials gather every night on a "war room" call to share updates on her nomination. White House Chief of Staff Jeff Zients and legislative affairs director Louisa Terrell, Jean-Pierre added, have been speaking regu-

larly with Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) and other key senators about Su's nomination "multiple times a week," including during the peak of the debt ceiling fight.

But the administration's efforts won't be enough if Schumer can't find 50 votes for Su.

Manchin has given no timeline on his decision. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, a Republican who occasionally supports Biden's Cabinet picks, has yet to make a decision on Su, and could balance out one Democratic vote against the acting secretary.

Senate confirmations often move slowly. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti waited nearly two years before winning confirmation as U.S. ambassador to India. Like Su, he had full support from the White House, but struggled to win over certain senators.

Opposition to Su's confirmation has been on a large scale and highly publicized, Hirono pointed out. The senator said she was surprised by the lengths business groups have gone to "scare" voters about a potential Su confirmation.

"That is something unique to me," Hirono said. "Big money has come out and put up billboards in certain states to encourage those senators to think twice before voting for her."

Asked whether those tactics are working, Hirono hesitated. "Let's just say we're not there yet," she said.

Danielle Cendejas, a Democratic strategist, said the battle over Su's nomination has cast a qualified candidate into a tired political tug of war between business and labor interests.

"You have a person who's highly qualified, probably more than qualified, to take this job, caught in a battle that we see play out at every level of politics," Cendejas said. "You have business ver-

sus labor."

Su wasn't involved in the drafting of AB 5, and her supporters have repeatedly stressed that the California Legislature devised the bill. But according to Tim Lineberger, a former advisor to Alex Acosta, who served as secretary of Labor under then-President Trump, Su will always be attached to the legislation because she enforced it. The messaging around AB 5 isn't what's holding up her confirmation, he said.

"It really doesn't matter how you message it, if they're concerned about where she is on the policy ... She can try to explain it however she wants to," Lineberger said.

Others say the choice of tying Su to AB 5 is part of a larger Republican strategy to portray California politicians as symbols of California.

"This is the latest example of California being used against somebody who is more than qualified for the job," Cendejas said. "I do think that this is a habit of theirs. It doesn't matter which Californian it is — they find a way to use that against people."

Schumer and his team are in charge of deciding when to put Su's confirmation to a vote. He has not scheduled one. Larry Huynh, a political strategist whose firm has partnered extensively with Schumer, said the delay isn't atypical for a Senate split so narrowly down the middle.

In this case, Huynh and Wong argued, Republican opposition to Su could come back to bite them. Huynh noted that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is an important voter bloc that Washington tends to overlook.

"Either party should think twice about playing politics over a candidate that is this qualified for the position who's also AAPI," he said.

Charges threaten to derail political legacy

Price is stepping down from two committees on which he has advocated for social justice issues.

By DAKOTA SMITH AND EMILY ALPERT REYES

In April, Los Angeles City Councilmember Curren Price rallied with workers on the steps of City Hall to demand higher pay for hotel workers and janitors who clean Los Angeles International Airport.

“The living wage movement is a social justice movement,” Price declared alongside union members in purple shirts, before introducing a proposal to dramatically boost wages for workers who cater to tourists.

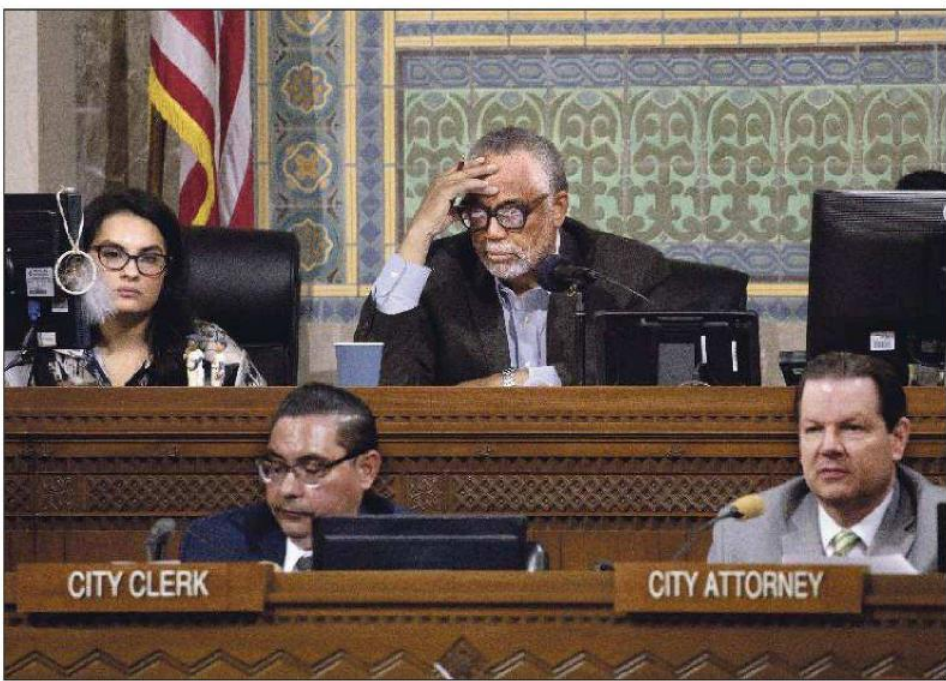
The moment distilled the causes on which Price has built his reputation in his decade on the City Council: his advocacy for low-wage earners and close ties to organized labor.

Price’s South L.A. council district includes some of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the city, and the politician has led efforts to boost the earnings or job opportunities of sidewalk vendors, hotel workers, formerly incarcerated people and others.

First elected in 2013 to represent District 9, Price is now a veteran of the 15-member City Council. He’s outlasted several colleagues who have shared the horse-shoe of seats assigned to City Council members, some of whom have left in recent years not only because of election loss but also in scandal-caused resignation or indictment.

Now, Price’s reputation is on the line following criminal charges of perjury, conflict of interest and embezzlement, filed Tuesday by the county district attorney’s office. The councilman was accused of having a financial interest in development projects that he voted on, and improperly receiving medical benefits from the city for his now-wife while he was still married to another woman.

“Curren Price is a long-standing public servant who has given his life to the city of Los Angeles,” said Price spokesperson Angelina Valencia, who added that their office had not seen the charges as of Tuesday afternoon. “He looks forward to defending himself once he’s had an opportunity to address these charges.”



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

COUNCILMEMBER Curren Price has championed labor and progressive causes, but now will step down from two key positions after facing criminal charges.

The criminal charges immediately shook up his positions at City Hall. Price had chaired two powerful council committees — the Economic and Community Development Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on the 2028 Olympics and Paralympic Games. He announced Tuesday that he was stepping down from all committee assignments and as president pro tempore.

His district represents several South L.A. neighborhoods and the area around downtown’s convention center.

USC and Exposition Park are also in his district, areas that have seen investments such as BMO Stadium and the forthcoming Lucas Museum of Narrative Art.

District 9’s population is 78% Latino and 13% Black, yet voters in the district have elected a Black representative to the City Council since the early 1960s. Price has twice won reelection, backed by a broad coalition that includes his colleagues on the City Council and community leaders.

“He’s well aware — probably more than ever before — of the need for a coalition to maintain his political seat,” said Jaime Regalado, emeritus professor of political science at Cal State L.A. As Latinos have become a “sizable majority” of his district, Regalado said, Price “would have been foolish not to fully recognize what’s at stake and come to grips with it,” including by hiring a diverse staff.

He’s also forged relationships with younger progressive members of the City Council who are also close with organized labor.

After the audio leak of a tape in October that showed City Council President Nury Martinez making racist remarks, the council moved to make City Councilman Paul Krekorian president of the council. At one point, it appeared that Price might seek the position. Instead, he was elected president pro tempore.

In a moving speech delivered on the council floor in late October after his colleagues voted him in, Price lauded his own district as a “microcosm” of the city’s diverse population. He also spoke about using his life ex-

periences to bring the city together following widespread outrage over his colleagues’ ugly remarks.

“As a 71-year-old Black man, I’ve had my fair share of experience fighting against adversity,” said Price. “From living through a time of segregation to the social justice revolution.”

Price grew up in South Los Angeles, attended high school in Inglewood before going to Stanford University and the University of Santa Clara’s School of Law.

He spent several years on the Inglewood City Council and represented much of the 9th District while serving in the state Senate. He also served on the state Assembly.

He easily defeated challenger Dulce Vasquez in the primary election last year for his third and final term. He called the race a referendum on his “progressive, positive, inclusive leadership.”

On the council, he’s supported a citywide \$15 minimum wage, helped legalize street vending and pushed for a pilot program that gave money, no strings attached, to struggling families.

He also put forward a “hero pay” program for grocery store employees who worked during the pandemic, a controversial move that prompted one grocery chain to close stores.

And he led a campaign to change employment rules so formerly incarcerated individuals can more easily find work.

Price “has certainly been a champion for working class Angelenos,” said Alberto Retana, president and chief executive of Community Coalition, a nonprofit based in South L.A. “His support of wages, his support of reinvesting police dollars, partnering with immigrant rights organizations — he’s certainly been an ally to organizations on the ground.”

In April, he joined members of Unite Here Local 11, Service Employees International Union-United Service Workers West and Yvonne Wheeler, president of the L.A. County Federation of Labor, to unveil a plan to boost the minimum wages of workers at larger hotels and some LAX workers to \$30 an hour by 2028.

Price argues that the

forthcoming 2028 Summer Olympics will help pump money into the economy and low-wage workers should benefit. The proposal is opposed by business groups.

Labor groups have stood by Price, who regularly champions their causes. In the June 2022 city council race, unions spent more than \$500,000 in support of Price’s campaign.

Price has also faced scrutiny over his personal and professional decisions: His marriage to Del Richardson Price became an issue during his reelection in 2017 after CityWatch reported that Price hadn’t finalized his divorce from his first wife. A spokesperson told the Times that year Price thought he and Richardson were legally married at the time.

In 2019, The Times reported that Price had repeatedly cast votes that affected housing developers and other firms listed as clients of his wife’s consulting company. Many of the votes identified by The Times were related to housing developments:

The Times reported that Price voted on decisions involving at least 10 companies in the same years they were listed as providing at least \$10,000 in income to Del Richardson & Associates.

Price also faced criticism for backing huge digital billboards on Washington Boulevard. Companies tied to the developer then funded a political committee working to reelect Price.

Community leader Jorge Nuño, who lives in Historic South-Central and ran unsuccessfully against Price six years ago, said that despite the headlines that Price has grabbed for his work on the minimum wage and other issues, the district needs better leadership.

“There are certain talking points that sound good, but are we increasing home ownership? Is our homelessness decreasing?” said Nuño. “I look at the data. Our community continues to struggle.”

He called the charges against Price “just disheartening.”

“We just hope that we get better representation that will fight for the people,” he said.

L.A. councilman charged in latest corruption case

[Price, from A1] for the matter to also be heard in a committee before returning to the full council, meaning it will probably take several days before a final decision is reached.

Price said earlier Tuesday that he would step down as the council’s president pro tempore, the body’s No. 2 spot, as well as from his committee assignments.

“While I navigate through the judicial system to defend my name against unwarranted charges filed against me, the last thing I want to do is be a distraction to the people’s business,” Price said in a letter to Paul Krekorian.

Price had been president pro tempore since late October. The role dictates that he lead council meetings when Krekorian is absent, as was the case for much of Tuesday’s meeting.

Price is the fourth current or former council member to face criminal charges in four years. Tuesday’s filing brought fresh disruption to City Hall, where staffers described a sense of déjà vu. Price’s colleagues will probably face pressure to suspend him pending trial, given that the council voted twice in the last three years to suspend other members facing criminal charges.

The charges are the latest in a string of criminal allegations and scandals that have rocked City Hall. Last year, the leak of a conversation among City Council President Nury Martinez, Councilmembers Kevin de León and Gil Cedillo and L.A. County Federation of Labor President Ron Herrera containing racist remarks ended Martinez’s council career and drove Herrera from his post.

This year, Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas was found guilty of conspiracy, bribery and fraud for extracting benefits for his son from USC while voting on issues that benefited the school.

Councilmembers Mitch Englander and Jose Huizar also pleaded guilty to federal corruption charges in recent years after an FBI investigation.

Price was one of several City Hall figures mentioned in the FBI inquiry after he was named in a federal search warrant filed in November 2018. Federal prosecutors never brought charges against him.

A date has not been set for Price’s arraignment.

According to the complaint, Del Richardson & Associates received six checks from companies either incorporated or co-owned by affordable housing developers whom Price later voted to fund projects for or sell city property to.

In 2021, Price voted to slash the price of a property sold to GTM Holdings from nearly \$1 million to \$440,000 six months after a company incorporated by GTM Holdings wrote a check to his wife’s firm for about \$51,000, court records show.

In 2019, according to the complaint, Price voted to fund a \$4.6-million real estate project involving developer Thomas Safran & Associates after his wife’s firm received checks totaling about \$35,000 from a company incorporated by Safran.

Reached by phone Tuesday, Safran told The Times, “I don’t know anything about it. I do know Del Richardson.” Before ending the call, he said, “I’m not even talking now. I’m sorry, bye.”

Price is also accused of bilking the city out of roughly \$33,000 in medical premiums by listing Richardson Price as his wife on city forms from 2013 to 2017, according to the complaint. Prosecutors allege that he used public funds to pay for her healthcare despite the fact that he was still legally married to Lynn Suzette Green. The council member and Richardson Price did not legally marry until 2018, records show.

After the council meeting, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield characterized the news as “shocking and depressing and concerning” but said he still didn’t know the specifics of the case.

“Of course, the bringing of charges is going to diminish the already damaged faith in the integrity of the city government,” Blumenfield said.

Concerns about Price voting on contracts involving companies that had done business with Richardson Price’s firm were previously raised in 2019 when The Times reported that he voted on decisions involving at least 10 companies in the same years they were listed as providing at least \$10,000 in income to Del Richardson & Associates.

Despite the public alarm, the criminal complaint says, Price continued taking part in such votes. All of the criminal conduct alleged to involve Del Richardson & Associates took place between September 2019 — at least four months after the initial Times report — and June 2021.

Del Richardson & Associates offers a wide array of services, including relocation assistance, marketing, job recruiting and more, according to its website. Its clients include government agencies such as the L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Jordan Downs, a housing project overseen by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, according to the website.

In 2019, a Price spokesperson said that neither the council member nor his wife had benefited financially from the votes initially identified by The Times. The spokesperson also said Price “has never cast a vote thinking of his or his wife’s financial interest.”

California law bars any public official from making or participating in any governmental decision “in which he knows or has reason to know he has a financial interest.”

It’s unclear what Richardson Price’s status is with Del Richardson & Associates.

It was acquired in recent years by a nonprofit, according to the company’s website and Price’s financial disclosure forms, which show that Del Richardson & Associates was sold to the Greenwood Seneca Foundation between February 2021 and February 2022.

Richardson Price still received a salary from Del Richardson & Associates in 2022 for consultant work, according to Price’s financial disclosure forms.

In 2017, the district attorney’s office confirmed to The Times that the office was reviewing a complaint filed over Price’s two marriages.

That year, questions were raised about whether Price had divorced Green before marrying Richardson Price.

More than four decades ago, Price married Green in Annandale, Va. He sought a divorce in Los Angeles County Superior Court in 2006 and refiled the action in 2011. However, it wasn’t clear in 2017 whether the 2011 divorce had gone through.

At the time, a spokesperson said the council member was under the impression that the divorce had occurred. A campaign spokesperson for Price said in 2017 that Price was married to Richardson Price.

Price’s marriage to Green was not dissolved until February 2018, and he did not legally marry Richardson Price until May 2018, according to the criminal complaint made public Tuesday, which references court record numbers for both the marriage and the divorce.

Richardson Price didn’t immediately respond to an email Tuesday from The Times about the charges against her husband.

The scandal-married City Council had regained tenuous stability in recent months, but Price’s charges will probably upend that relative calm.

The immediate question will be whether Price, whose term is not set to expire until 2026, remains on the council as he fights the charges.

If suspended, Price would be unable to attend council and committee meetings, execute contracts, use discretionary funds or engage in constituent services. His South L.A. district would be left without a voting representative.

Under city rules, Price would permanently lose his seat if convicted of a felony.

Times staff writers Emily Alpert Reyes and Matt Hamilton contributed to this report.

A blow for Black political power in L.A.?

[Smith, from A1] ant who has given his life to the city of Los Angeles. He looks forward to defending himself.”

A few hours later, Price stepped down from his position as president pro tem and gave up his committee assignments.

“While I navigate through the judicial system to defend my name against unwarranted charges filed against me, the last thing I want to do is be a distraction to the people’s business,” he said in a statement.

No matter. It’s likely his colleagues will feel the need to suspend him, similar to what they’ve decided for other council members who have faced criminal charges. That would leave yet another group of Angelenos without a voting representative — in this case, in the 9th District, stretching south from downtown along the 110 Freeway.

If Price is actually convicted of a felony, which is far from a certainty, he would permanently lose his seat on the City Council after a decade in office.

So it is both predictable and understandable that the charges will be seen by many as yet another disappointing and maddening

blow for Black people in Los Angeles. In fact, hovering over a city that has for so many decades been defined by tribal politics will be the question: What does this mean for Black political power?

There are no simple answers to that.

Not with rapid demographic shifts and a dwindling population of Black residents, thanks to rising rates of displacement tied to the high cost of living; namely, for housing.

Not after Ridley-Thomas, a veteran politician known for his singular ability to get things done for Black people, was convicted in late March (though he is pursuing an appeal).

Not even with the city recently electing its second Black mayor, Karen Bass, by an overwhelming margin.

Voters in Price’s district have elected a Black representative to the City Council every term since the 1960s. This is true even though the population there, at last count, is 78% Latino and 13% Black, and several Latino candidates challenged him in previous elections.

Price is in his third and final term on the council, expected to leave in 2026. If he is convicted, his exit will

come much sooner, and the chances of him being replaced by another Black politician aren’t high. It also, quite frankly, makes perfect sense in a city where Latinos remain underrepresented in elected office.

In some quarters, I suspect the charges against Price also will be seen as a twisted reflection on Black politicians, writ large. It’ll be, “Oh, there goes another crooked Black politician.”

This is the most unintended side effect of L.A.’s family-affair-style tribal politics, one exploited during last year’s mayoral campaign when police unions tried to tie Bass to the indictment filed against her longtime friend Ridley-Thomas.

But this is also the way the broad brush of anti-Black racism works in this country, regardless of city or profession. Especially in a city or a profession when there are only a handful of powerful Black people.

Which is why I’m choosing to see things differently.

Price is 72 years old. He came of political age at a time when Black people had to band together to get elected. That’s still true, but increasingly less so. Especially in a city that’s as increasingly multicultural as

Los Angeles.

More than tribal politics, maybe we need to focus instead on the forces that brought people like Hugo Soto-Martinez and Eunisses Hernandez to the City Council.

So what does his indictment mean for Black political power in L.A.?

Absolutely everything. And absolutely nothing. It’s up to us — all of us — to decide.

Price probably understands this more than most. “As a 71-year-old Black man,” Price said last year, accepting the job of president pro tempore, “I’ve had my fair share of experience fighting against adversities. From living through a time of segregation to the social justice revolutions today. We’ve got some difficult days ahead, but I have infinite hope that working together works.”

On Tuesday, he presided over most of the City Council meeting, blissfully unaware of the pending indictment, cheerily introducing himself as the president pro tempore and saying that it was his “pleasure to welcome you today.”

It was the last bit of normalcy in city government that we’re likely to see for a while — again.

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BUSINESS

Owner of LAist to shed workers

The operator of the public radio station will cut staff by more than 10% and pull back on podcasting.

By MEG JAMES

Southern California Public Radio, which runs local station LAist (formerly known as KPCC), said Tuesday that it would cut staff by more than 10% because of a revenue shortfall.

In a note to employees, President and Chief Executive Herb Scannell announced the elimination of 21 positions as part of a restructuring. Scannell said the cuts are also part of an effort to accelerate growth in digital media.

Scannell described the retrenchment as an effort to better deliver on SCPR's "cross-platform, public service mission." SCPR owns and operates the LAist website, podcast producer LAist Studios as well as its local radio station that broadcasts at 89.3 FM.

The move was intended as a step toward creating "a sustainable business model for an increasingly digital future," he wrote.

LAist's report on the layoffs said cutbacks primarily involve administrative staff, producers and technicians. The shortfall had much to do with softness in the advertising business and a pullback of promotional efforts by Hollywood studios amid the writers' strike.

The report noted that LAist is paring its podcasting initiatives, a business that has struggled recently.

LAist's contraction comes amid a devastating economy for news organizations, which have been forced to cut hundreds of journalists' jobs.

Last week, the Los Angeles Times announced that it was cutting 74 newsroom positions, also due to a budget gap. (The number of layoffs was reduced to 73 after a team leader volunteered to depart.) On Monday, the New York Times an-



MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

"WE NEED to reallocate resources to maintain a consistent digital presence," CEO Herb Scannell wrote to employees. Above, the company's Pasadena office.

nounced that it was cutting 20 jobs from the Athletic, its sports news site, representing 4% of its staff.

In the last year, the Washington Post, CNN, MSNBC, NPR, Vice Media and Insider have laid off journalists. BuzzFeed News and MTV News have shut down. NPR, which supplies programming to LAist, cut 10% of its workforce in February. Spotify has slashed roles from its podcast division.

"While we've managed to reduce spending and mitigate costs in the past year, that approach is no longer feasible in the new fiscal year," Scannell wrote in his message. "We need to reallocate resources to maintain a consistent digital presence. This involves giving priority to digital-first reporting and strengthening our audience development efforts moving forward."

LAist's fiscal year ends June 30. Earlier this month, it held a membership fundraising drive and announced on air that it had met its goal.

According to a recent tax filing, Southern California Public Radio posted revenue of \$42 million for the 2021-22 fiscal year, represent-

ing an increase of 13% over the previous fiscal year, when the organization reported \$37 million in revenue.

Scannell, through a spokesperson, declined to comment beyond the memo. The spokesperson said in a statement: "We are reallocating resources to prioritize our digital offerings and capabilities, enabling us to attract and serve a growing, loyal audience."

At least seven members of the station's guild, part of the SAG-AFTRA union, were included in the layoffs.

Guild representatives, in a statement, said they were outraged by the cuts, which were announced during a morning staff meeting.

"For months, we have heard about how the company was able to manage our budget shortfall," guild members said, noting that contributions from listeners helped the station hit its most recent fundraising benchmark.

"Our company says the 'restructuring' will help us become more 'cross-platform' and be more of a digital newsroom — yet valuable colleagues in podcasts and digital teams are being laid off," the guild continued.

"We've also lost people who were invaluable in getting reporting across these platforms."

Staff members who lost their jobs will be offered severance packages and "other resources to support their transition," Scannell's memo said.

"While being able to balance the books is a fundamental requirement of our business, these changes optimally position us to succeed in a competitive digital landscape," Scannell wrote. "To that end, we are posting several new roles in the coming days, and we anticipate adding new roles in the next fiscal year to accelerate our digital transition."

Separately, several journalists working for dot.LA, a once-ambitious outlet that strove to cover Los Angeles' tech startup scene, posted on Twitter that the small editorial staff had been jettisoned this week and that their email accounts were shut down.

In an internal memo viewed by The Times, the head of the dot.LA venture, which had about seven editorial employees, said the group planned to shift its focus to its newsletter product.

Maker of Instant Pot files for Chapter 11 as its sales turn cold

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stung by inflation and seeing Americans pulling back on spending, the already struggling maker of Pyrex glassware and Instant Pot has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

According to a filing with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas this week, Instant Brands, based outside of Chicago, has more than \$500 million in both assets and liabilities.

Inflation has buffeted consumers after a pandemic-fueled binge on goods for the home, but spending has also moved elsewhere as people again are able to travel and go to restaurants and shows.

And Instant Pots, which became a must-have gadget several years ago, have been disappearing from kitchens.

Sales of "electronic multicooker devices," most of which are Instant Pots, reached \$758 million in 2020, the start of the pandemic. Sales had plunged 50% by last year, to \$344 million.

Last week, S&P Global downgraded the company's rating due to lower consumer spending on discretionary items and warned that ratings could fall again if Instant Brands sought bankruptcy protection.

"Net sales decreased 21.9% in the first quarter of fiscal 2023, relative to the

same period last year," S&P analysts wrote. "This marked the seventh consecutive quarter of year-over-year sales contraction. Instant Brands' performance continues to suffer from depressed consumer demand due to lower discretionary spending on home products."

U.S. manufacturers have also been hit, like consumers, by elevated inflation and interest rates.

Ben Gadbois, chief executive and president of Instant Brands, said the company managed its way through the COVID-19 pandemic and global supply chain issues but has run short of cash.

"Tightening of credit terms and higher interest rates impacted our liquidity levels and made our capital structure unsustainable," Gadbois said in a prepared statement Monday.

Instant Brands, whose brands also include Corelle, Snapware, CorningWare, Visions and Chicago Cutlery, said it has received a commitment for \$132.5 million in new debtor-in-possession financing from its existing lenders.

The company was acquired four years ago by the private equity firm Cornell Capital and it was merged with another kitchenware company, Corelle Brands.

Instant Brands' entities located outside the U.S. and Canada are not included in the Chapter 11 filings.



TOM MCCORKLE For the Washington Post

SALES of "electronic multicooker devices," most of which are Instant Pots, have plunged since 2020.

Bay Area mall's owner gives up the keys

Hit hard by pandemic changes, Westfield San Francisco Centre will be turned over to a receiver.

By JOHN GITTELSON

The owners of the Westfield San Francisco Centre mall have stopped paying their loan and are giving up the property to lenders, adding to deepening real estate pain in a city struggling to bring back workers and tourists after the pandemic.

The mall, co-owned by Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield and Brookfield Corp., has \$558 million in outstanding mortgage debt. Management will be turned over to a receiver.

The move comes a month after Nordstrom Inc. said it

was closing its store at the site, citing a drop in customer traffic and the changing dynamics of the city.

The mall is in the heart of San Francisco's Union Square district, one of the downtown's main shopping and tourist areas.

Westfield San Francisco Centre is the city's biggest shopping center and features the historic Emporium department store dome, rebuilt after San Francisco's devastating 1906 earthquake and painstakingly restored for the mall's 2008 opening.

"Given the challenging operating conditions in downtown San Francisco, which have led to declines in sales, occupancy and foot traffic, we have made the difficult decision to begin the process to transfer management of the shopping center to our lender to allow them to appoint a receiver to op-

erate the property going forward," Molly Morse, a spokesperson for Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield, said in a statement.

San Francisco has been among the hardest-hit cities since the pandemic as office vacancies soar, retail vacancies rise and concerns about safety deter visitors.

Last week, Park Hotels & Resorts Inc. said it was stopping payments on loans tied to two downtown hotels with \$725 million in outstanding debt.

Sales at Westfield San Francisco Centre fell to \$298 million last year from \$455 million in 2019, while foot traffic dropped 43%, Morse said. Traffic and sales at other Westfield properties increased during the same period.

In a statement, San Francisco Mayor London Breed said the move was "coming for some time" and pointed

to plans by Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield to leave the U.S. market entirely.

The Paris-based company was planning a "radical reduction of our financial exposure to the U.S. over the course of 2022 and 2023," Chief Executive Jean-Marie Tritant has said.

The company last year sold the Westfield Santa Anita mall for \$537.5 million to Southern California real estate investor Wen Shan Chang, who changed the Arcadia shopping center's name to the Shops at Santa Anita. It was the largest mall sale in years.

"With new management, we will have an opportunity to pursue a new vision for this space that focuses on what the future of downtown San Francisco can be," Breed said.

Gittelsohn writes for Bloomberg.

JPMorgan reaches deal with victims of Epstein

Bank giant, accused of enabling a sex trafficking operation, will pay \$290 million to end a lawsuit.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JPMorgan Chase announced a tentative \$290-million settlement Monday with victims of Jeffrey Epstein who had accused the bank of being the financial conduit that enabled the financier to continue operating a sex-trafficking operation.

Epstein was arrested in 2019 and charged with paying underage girls hundreds of dollars in cash for massages and then molesting them at his homes in Florida and New York. He was found dead in jail Aug. 10 of that year, at age 66. A medical examiner ruled his death a suicide.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Manhattan in November, sought to hold JPMorgan financially liable for Epstein's decades-long abuse of teenage girls and young women. A related lawsuit has been filed in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"We all now understand that Epstein's behavior was monstrous, and we believe this settlement is in the best interest of all parties, especially the survivors, who suffered unimaginable abuse at the hands of this man," JPMorgan Chase said in a statement Monday.

The proposed settlement, which must still be approved by the judge in the case, totals \$290 million, said lead plaintiff attorney David Boies.

According to the lawsuits, JPMorgan provided

Epstein with loans and regularly allowed him to withdraw large sums of cash from 1998 through August 2013 even though it was aware of his participation in sex trafficking. An anonymous victim, referred to as Jane Doe, said she was sexually abused by Epstein from 2006 to 2013.

The bank continued to count Epstein as a client even after he was arrested and pleaded guilty to sex crimes in 2008 in Florida.

The settlement with Jane Doe was announced on the same day that a judge granted Doe's lawsuit class-action status, meaning that future awards would be granted to Doe and other victims.

"Any association with him was a mistake, and we regret it," the bank said in a statement. "We would never have continued to do business with him if we believed he was using our bank in any way to help commit heinous crimes."

The settlement comes roughly two weeks after JPMorgan Chief Executive Jamie Dimon testified in a deposition in the case in which he denied knowing about Epstein and his crimes until the financier was arrested in 2019, according to a transcript of the videotaped deposition released last month.

Litigation is still pending between the U.S. Virgin Islands and JPMorgan Chase, as well as JPMorgan Chase's claims against former executive Jes Staley.

The bank has denied the allegations and sued Staley, saying he hid Epstein's crimes to keep him as a client. Staley left JPMorgan in 2013 and later became chief of Barclays. Staley stepped down from that role in 2021 because of his prior relationship with Epstein.

Labor secretary pushes for progress in port talks

Julie Su visits the state and urges both sides to 'stay at the table' amid fears of more cargo disruptions.

By JORDAN FABIAN AND LAURA CURTIS

Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su is in California for talks with West Coast port employers and the dockworkers union in an effort to break an impasse in a long-running contract negotiation.

Su is encouraging ocean carriers and terminal operators, represented by the Pacific Maritime Assn., and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union "to stay at the table and reach an agreement," said Julie

McClain Downey, assistant Labor secretary for public affairs. She did not elaborate on the status of the talks.

Ports up and down the West Coast have faced labor-related disruptions as contract talks have dragged on, resulting in delays and ocean shippers moving cargo to the East and Gulf coasts. The prospect of a work stoppage could pose fresh supply chain headaches for President Biden and the U.S. economy.

Su has previously been engaged in the talks, but her decision to travel to California to meet personally with the two sides represents an escalation in the administration's involvement in the negotiations, which have lasted more than a year.

Business groups have urged the Biden administration to directly intervene to break the stalemate, but the

president and his team have been loath to impose an agreement and have instead said they prefer to let the collective bargaining process continue.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce last week in a letter to Biden warned that a "serious work stoppage" at West Coast ports could cost the U.S. economy \$1 billion per day and urged the president to appoint an "independent mediator" to help the parties reach a deal.

Disruptions in the last six days at Los Angeles have been minimal and "given the circumstances, cargo is flowing pretty well," said Port of L.A. Executive Director Gene Seroka, who is not involved in the contract negotiations.

"There's really no comparison at this point" to the issues that seized port operations during contract nego-

tiations in 2014 and 2015, Seroka told reporters Tuesday, urging both sides to reach an agreement soon.

Su, who faces a tough confirmation fight in the Senate to become Biden's permanent Labor secretary, is from California and led the state's Labor and Workforce Development Agency before joining the administration in 2021. She has relationships with labor and management representatives at the ports.

"We urge Acting Labor Secretary Su to stay engaged until a resolution is reached that ensures the uninterrupted flow of goods and restores confidence in the West Coast ports as a reliable gateway for global commerce," the Retail Industry Leaders Assn. said.

Fabian and Curtis write for Bloomberg.

OPINION

EDITORIAL



HOST Jerrod Carmichael holds three Golden Globes during the show in January.

Will Golden Globes survive?

A GROUP OF foreign journalists covering Hollywood banded together 80 years ago into the Hollywood Foreign Press Assn. and created the Golden Globes, a quirky, irreverent awards show, televised for decades, that people watched for fun and actors attended because they knew people would be watching.

A couple of years ago, the group got into trouble after The Times reported on its members' unethical behavior — ranging from taking too many selfies with stars to taking too many free trips, hotel stays and meals from studios. The group also had no Black members.

After being shunned by Hollywood stars, publicists and NBC, the network that had been airing the show, the HFPA reformed itself, diversified and expanded its voting membership and set new rules forbidding all freebies. The show returned to NBC in January with stars schmoozing one another at dinner tables in the audience — but to near record low ratings. (Other big awards shows have gone up and down in the ratings.)

Now, in yet another twist, the group has gone from being nonprofit to being nonexistent after it dissolved itself and sold off the rights to the Golden Globes to Eldridge Industries, a private equity firm, and Dick Clark Productions. The new owners will create a for-profit company to run the Globes awards show and explore other commercial opportunities connected to the Globes. Proceeds from the sale will go into a newly created nonprofit Golden Globes Foundation, which will continue the HFPA's extensive philanthropic work.

The 95 former members who live and work in the U.S., mostly as freelance journalists for foreign media outlets, will now become employees of the for-profit company making \$75,000 a year (unless they choose not to stay on — in which case they get severance of \$225,000). They will be paid to do the stuff they did for free in the past — screen movies and TV shows and nominate and vote for entertainers in the various Globes categories. (As HFPA members, some received stipends for helping put on the show.) Additionally, they may write for the new company's Globes website, interviewing celebrities for the site, for example.

Two years ago they got in trouble (deservedly) for acting unprofessionally as journalists covering entertainers whose work they might be judging for the Globes. Now they will be professional awards voters who also write about celebrities for the website of that awards show. Doesn't this pivot strip away whatever credibility the members tried hard the last two years to regain?

There's something unseemly about a Globes voter getting paid to write for the Globes website about an actor that they

may end up nominating for a Golden Globe award to be given out on the stage of a show owned by the company they work for. Will the company executives urge voters to nominate high-profile stars and directors in hopes that they will show up? The new model appears to be one giant public relations machine. Complicating all this: Eldridge has an investment in Penske Media's entertainment media brands, which include Variety and Hollywood Reporter, trade publications that cover the entertainment industry. Eldridge also has a minority stake in the independent film company A24. How intertwined can this get?

Of course, all televised awards shows end up stoking publicity for the entertainment industry. (Oscar voters work in the entertainment business and do not get paid for their time watching movies, nominating their peers and voting on them. The Academy is a nonprofit organization.)

The companies buying the Golden Globes say this new structure is more sustainable. Freed from having to hustle for interviews with stars on location sets that they can't afford to travel to on their own dime and freed from having to put on the show, the voting members will now be journalists who work for the Golden Globes company — and who happen to be Golden Globes voters. Also, the now-defunct HFPA diversified (10% of voters are Black and 58% overall are nonwhite) by adding 215 journalists living and working in countries around the world as voters. Overseas members would continue to be voters but would not be paid by the Globes company. So, the overwhelming majority of voters would *not* be paid by the Globes company.

The problem with the HFPA, many believe, is that it was running too much — the show, press conferences, awards. Todd Boehly, the chief executive of Eldridge, told The Times that you fix some of those problems by transitioning “an organization from a not-for-profit with no accountability and bad governance to an organization where there is employee-based accountability.”

And the executives say they will not be involved in the nominating and voting processes.

But these are changes that could bring new ethical problems for the beleaguered Golden Globes enterprise. We want the Golden Globes to continue to be a fun and wacky show where an actress shows up with deliberately mismatched shoes (see Helena Bonham Carter in 2011) and Quinta Brunson, creator and star of “Abbott Elementary,” pauses mid-speech accepting an award to say, “Hey, Brad Pitt” to the actor in the audience.

The former HFPA voters should proceed with this new iteration cautiously. Can the Golden Globes survive this transition and still matter? We'll see.

Chris Christie won't win, but he's speaking truth to Trump

It's refreshing to hear a Republican take on the lies and narcissism of Donald Trump in a town hall.

ROBIN ABCARIAN

OUT OF THE miasma of Republican denial, a bold truth teller has emerged.

Of course, he doesn't stand a rat's chance of winning his party's presidential nomination, but former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie should be celebrated for calling out former President Trump.

On the eve of Trump's second arraignment — this time on federal charges — his former buddy and current 2024 opponent trash-talked him with zest during a CNN town hall Monday.

No insult Christie leveled at Trump was quite as poetic as his description last week of the former president as “a lonely, self-consumed, self-serving mirror hog.” He also called Trump “a child,” “completely self-centered, completely self-consumed,” “a three-time loser,” a “loser, loser, loser,” and “victim me, poor me.”

In the current GOP orthodoxy, Christie's honesty is apostasy.

And yet his performance, I daresay, brought a touch of sanity to an otherwise delusional Republican presidential field.

Folks like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and former Vice President Mike Pence have been reluctant to take on the former guy, who continues to dominate the polls regardless of his mounting legal woes.

Some of the Republican presidential candidates can't even bring themselves to utter Trump's name. A recent Iowa gathering of some Republican candidates, said Christie, was a case in point.

“It was like he was Voldemort from ‘Harry Potter,’” Christie said. “Like, nobody wanted to mention his name. Like, say his name, man, say his name! Right? I mean, how do you beat someone if you won't talk about them? How do you beat them if you won't distinguish yourself from them?”

Maybe they don't want to distinguish themselves from Trump. Maybe each is praying that Trump's candidacy implodes, opening the way for him- or herself as the Trump alternative.

“A number of Republicans have been reluctant to talk about the substance of actually what's in [the indictment],” noted CNN host Anderson Cooper.

“I hadn't noticed,” Christie replied dryly. “How about you decide who is the most honest, forthright leader who has common sense and will put you first, and let's put that person behind the desk in the Oval Office?”

Taking boxes of classified documents in violation of the Presidential Records Act, then trying to keep them away from federal officials who subpoenaed them and inducing others to lie, said Christie, “is inexcusable in my opinion for someone who wants to be president of the United States.”

As for the tiresome Republican refrain that President Biden has “weaponized” the Department of Justice against Trump, Christie, a former federal prosecutor was brusque: “You know, look, I don't think so. This evidence looks pretty damning. ... How about blame him? He did it.”

If Trump had simply returned the boxes, said Christie, “none of this would



have happened. He is saying, ‘I am more important than the country. These are *my* papers.’ This is vanity run amok, ego run amok.”

And if the “angry and vengeful” Trump were to be reelected, Christie said, you can bet the rerun will be uglier than the original. A second Trump term would be “all about him settling scores with everybody who he thinks wasn't perfectly nice to him.”

In 2018, Lincoln Project co-founder Rick Wilson authored the withering critique “Everything Trump Touches Dies.” Trump's friendship with Christie is no exception.

Christie supported Trump early on after he dropped out of the 2016 nominating contest, and helped Trump prep for his presidential debates that year and in 2020. (Christie nearly died after contracting COVID-19 from Trump during a 2020 debate prep session. Trump had not disclosed to Christie that he had tested positive that morning before the prep had begun and, Christie alleged Monday, later told reporters that Christie gave it to him.)

Christie's breaking point with Trump came when the president stood behind the presidential seal in the wee hours after polls closed in November 2020 and declared himself the winner. CNN played the clip for the town hall audience: “This is a fraud on the American public,” Trump said. “This is an embarrassment to our country. We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election.”



CHRIS KRUPA Associated Press
CHRIS CHRISTIE launches his 2024 primary campaign in New Hampshire.

Of course, *no one* knew who won the election at that point. It was far too early.

Trump, Christie said, behaved like a schoolchild who came home with a bad grade and blamed the teacher, or the kid sitting next to him for distracting him.

“It's a child's reaction,” he said, “and I beg you to think about this. Don't allow the showmanship to obscure the facts. The facts are he lost to Joe Biden.”

The town hall wasn't all Trump bashing, as refreshing as that was.

Christie refused to step into the culture wars muck, telling Cooper that states should make up their own minds about abortion. He disavowed his previous position that no one “needs” assault weapons, saying that it's not a matter of “need,” it's a matter of what the 2nd Amendment allows. He gave a remarkably sensitive answer about drug addiction and incarceration — telling a woman with a troubled son that addiction is a disease requiring treatment, not a moral failing.

Which is probably why he's polling at only about 1% among likely Republican voters.

In today's GOP, speaking truth to Trump is unforgivable. Necessary, if the party is to regain its sanity, but unforgivable.

@robinkabcarian

LETTERS



LAWYERS John Barber, left, and Jeffrey Ranern left the firm Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith in May.

How did bigotry hide for so long?

Re “L.A. law firm outs former partners' offensive emails,” June 12

As a former equity partner at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, I was dismayed to learn about the circulation of racist emails at the Los Angeles law firm for more than a decade. Those emails were written by two partners who re-

cently broke off from the firm.

My disappointment was especially keen because during the years that I was with the firm in the 1980s and early '90s, the leadership made efforts to racially diversify its attorney ranks at a time when minority representation in large law firms was dismal.

But now it is difficult to square a diversity-welcoming environment with a place where two apparently racist and bigoted partners

were formerly on the management committee.

Your article mentions that the two offending attorneys copied others within the firm on their emails. The fact that evidently no one raised the alarm about these emails contemporaneously suggests either that the racial animus extends beyond two “bad apples” or, just as badly, the employees who saw these emails didn't see them as a problem.

Either way, I hope my former firm sees fit to determine how extensive racist sympathies run within its ranks and then address the issue appropriately.

AGUSTIN MEDINA
South Pasadena

••

A cherished piece of advice I received as a freshly minted lawyer with Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith was this: Assume anything you put in writing will be read by a judge.

When reviewing my drafts, my supervisor told me that before posting a

letter, I should reread it and imagine my adversary introducing it as a court exhibit. That was a time when faxes were state of the art, but the advice applies equally well to emails and texts and whatever comes next.

I have followed that instruction ever since and thankfully will never know all the trouble it has saved me.

EDGAR SAENZ
Los Angeles

••

Thanks to the great reporting that uncovered the hateful emails of two high-ranking law partners — even as it exposed the dark side of some of Los Angeles' elite professionals.

Perhaps these two Pied Pipers and their eager right-wing followers should now consider heading to Florida to set up shop. The repugnant political culture created there by Gov. Ron DeSantis should welcome these guys with open arms.

JUNE MAGUIRE
Mission Viejo

Were migrants really ‘pushed’?

Re “Were migrants pushed to board flights?” June 11

The headline is misleading. The migrants were “lured,” not “pushed.”

Has some subconscious progressive thinking seeped into your headline writing? The article itself is factual, as were the statements made by the contractor's employee that “there were people there to receive us who would give us lodging, that they would help us ... get our [immigration] papers in order.”

It appears that's true of California, New York and Massachusetts, and would be for any sanctuary state that so self-righteously wants open borders even though other states suffer.

ALLAN BAKER
Morongo Valley

••

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican presi-

dential candidate, says he did nothing wrong because the migrants his people apparently lied to and transported out of his state to California went “voluntarily.”

Every creep convicted of luring children into a backseat with candy will follow this case with great interest.

DOUGLAS GREEN
Sherman Oaks

FOR THE RECORD

Letters: The headline for a June 11 letter to the editor about the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence incorrectly referred to the first writer as a “former nun.” In fact, the writer is a member of a Catholic lay community that includes former nuns.

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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OP-ED

THE SUPREME Court's ruling on affirmative action, focusing on whether Harvard's consideration of race in admissions intentionally discriminates against Asian Americans, is expected this month. A big part of our research has been to identify anti-Asian discrimination, so we understand how charges that Asian Americans are held to a higher standard in college admissions might feel like another instance of anti-Asian bias. But we just don't see an Asian American penalty in college admissions.

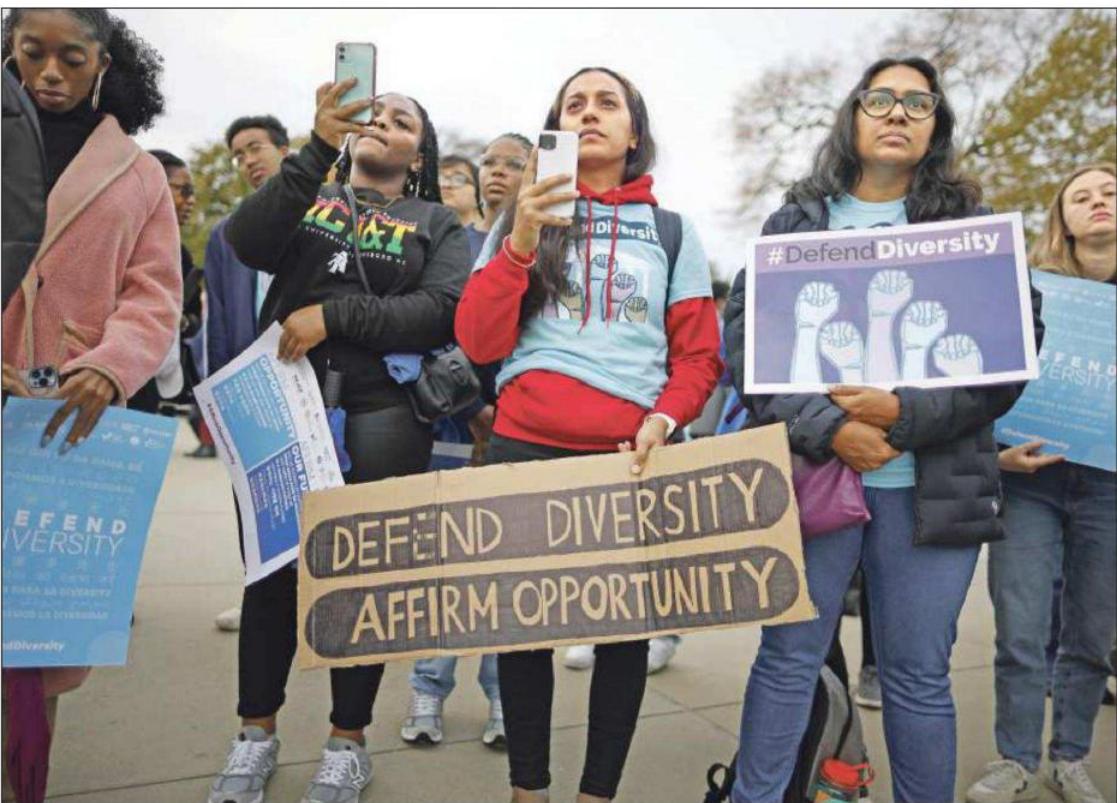
Potent myths about admissions circulate within and outside Asian American communities: "Asian Americans have to score higher than other students to get in" and "Asian Americans shouldn't check the Asian box on applications." These myths are often endorsed by college admissions advisers and accepted by parents and students, though not a single Asian American student has testified that they faced discrimination in the high profile Harvard case.

The faulty evidence for these myths rests in large part on the assumption that tests like the SAT are the best and fairest measures of merit. But the SAT has never been fair and is rooted in racism, developed by a racist eugenicist, Carl Brigham. Standardized test scores are more highly associated with parental education and family income than with college success or completion. Asian Americans have the highest education and incomes of any racial group, though there are significant variations in income and parental education among Asian Americans, with poverty rates among Hmong and Burmese Americans at more than 25%.

Considering factors beyond test scores does not amount to intentional discrimination targeting Asian Americans, but is an important acknowledgment that standardized tests reflect economic inequalities and are flawed indicators of merit. In fact, that's why the UC system no longer considers the SAT in admissions.

Still, the claim that Asian Americans have to score "140 points" more than white students to get into highly selective colleges has gone viral. Julie J. Park, a scholar of higher education, shows in "Race on Campus: Debunking Myths with Data" why this assertion is wrong. The SAT score differentials often cited are based on a study by Thomas Espenshade and Alexandria Radford that, when viewed without context, is quite misleading. Based on data collected in the 1990s, their research does not provide an actual score differential between groups. Why? Because the analysis does not include key elements in admissions files, including letters of recommendation and essays. Espenshade himself has said that the data do not establish racial bias.

Nevertheless, the conservative white legal activist Ed Blum is suing Harvard for allegedly penalizing Asian Americans. The complaint is not only on the SAT front,



CHIP SOMODEVILLA Getty Images

SUPPORTERS of affirmative action in higher education rally in front of the U.S. Supreme Court before oral arguments in two cases over the issue on Oct. 31.

Affirmative action isn't hurting Asian Americans

The idea is a fallacy based on a misreading of a study that didn't look at other admissions factors

By Janelle Wong and Viet Thanh Nguyen

but also that Asian American applicants were subject to racial bias when it comes to Harvard's "personal rating," one of five ratings that go into an admissions score.

Here's why we don't buy that. Blum's suit makes much of the fact that the small numbers of Asian American applications his team reviewed contained comments reinforcing the "model minority" stereotype, portraying Asian Americans as passive nerds lacking leadership with phrases like "very quiet" and "quiet and strong." But "very quiet" and "quiet and strong" were comments that appeared in the files of Black, Latino and white applicant files as well. The 2013-14 Harvard Interview Handbook highlights "introspection" and "the reflective introvert" as a "future leader." Statistical models show positive, though not statistically significant, associations between admissions and Asian American identity for Asian American females and Asian Americans from California. We would expect to see statistically significant negative associations if intentional discrimination was at work here.

Asian Americans, like all non-white students, do face implicit bias. Importantly, Asian Americans experience both positive and negative forms of bias in college admissions. The stereotype of hard work and smarts can provide an advantage in some instances. But research shows that those who view Asian Americans through that lens are more likely to view other people of color as lacking a

work ethic. Indeed, the model minority stereotype has long been used to undermine demands for equality for all.

These troubled dimensions of U.S. race relations are prominently displayed in the Harvard case, in which opportunities are treated as a zero-sum game, divided between a few haves and many have nots. The lawsuit against Harvard exploits this fear and uses Asian Americans as an argument against affirmative action and against Black, Latino and Indigenous students, rather than drawing attention to the systemic problem of a society that allocates more and more resources to the already advantaged.

Harvard has an endowment of more than \$50 billion and more than half its students come from the top 10 percentile of American society. Of course, the overwhelming majority of students and parents won't be affected by Harvard's admissions policy, though the majority will be affected by college debt and underresourced state universities and community colleges. In California, 51% of Asian American college students attend community colleges.

This is why it's heartening that the majority of Asian American registered voters surveyed say they favor "affirmative action programs designed to help Black people, women, and other minorities get better access to higher education." Indeed, some studies have shown that Asian American chances of admission to highly selective colleges increase when

race-conscious policies are used.

In California, the ban on affirmative action at public universities imposed more than 25 years ago had little positive impact for Asian Americans. Asian American and white students may have been marginally more likely to get into their first choice of college versus their second choice after the ban, but overall access to the top tier of UC campuses was unchanged, as were economic outcomes. The ban, however, had major negative impacts on Black and Latino students' enrollment at the most prestigious campuses, drove down their applications to the UC system overall, and dramatically decreased earnings over time.

Reducing college admissions to a simple and highly biased score overlooks the nuances and complexities of how race and inequality intersect. Affirmative action and race-conscious admissions are limited but necessary tools among many needed to address this intersection. They will not solve the problem of race and inequality by themselves, but without them, that problem will be made worse for all of us.

JANELLE WONG is the director of Asian American Studies and a professor of American Studies and Government and Politics at the University of Maryland. VIET THANH NGUYEN is University Professor, Aerol Arnold Chair of English and Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity at USC.

Yet again, the media get it all wrong on Trump

His federal indictment is the latest episode of a half-century of legal trouble and journalistic malfeasance.

LZ GRANDERSON

DONALD TRUMP IS IN legal trouble again. But then, he has been in legal trouble my entire life.

Starting with the Nixon Justice Department's housing discrimination lawsuit against his company back in 1973, Trump had been involved in more than 3,500 legal disputes before he even moved into the White House. Yes, some — such as the complaint against a tenant for not paying rent even though he had — were frivolous, but many, like the one brought by the Justice Department, weren't.

All of which should have been a red flag for the media. But it wasn't.

Instead, media executives put Trump on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous"; they gave him his own reality TV show; and they allowed him to spew lies about President Obama's origins without producing a shred of evidence.

The debate over CNN's infamous recent Trump town hall made it seem as if "How do we cover Trump?" was a novel question. But New York newspapers ran his full-page ads effectively calling for the death penalty for the now-exonerated "Central Park Five" in 1989 even though their executives knew Trump could not be trusted. And they knew this because their newspapers had already been covering Trump for years.

We journalists can certainly use our sharp tongues and witty prose to eviscerate the cowards in Congress who are afraid to acknowledge that classified documents shouldn't be sprawled out on the floor of a Florida storage room. But the media were in the business of legitimizing Trump long before those red baseball caps became a thing.

Even now, much of the coverage of the former president's federal indictment is focused on its unprecedented nature. Yet the fact is that this is someone who has been in legal trouble for half a century.

"How do we cover Trump?" is not the question of the moment. That question should have been asked and answered long before he emerged as the Republican front-runner for 2024 or 2016.

Trump is now a factor in a fourth consecutive general election because sometime between "The Apprentice" and the 2016 primary, his import changed while his media coverage remained the same. This corrupt figure became the leader of a dangerous movement but continued to be treated like a diverting celebrity.

Back in 1991, two years after he suggested that Black and brown children should be executed for a crime they didn't commit, Trump was quoted as saying in reference to a Black accountant at one of his casinos: "Black guys counting my money! I hate it. The only kind of people I want counting my money are short guys that wear yarmulkes every day." And yet in 2011, executives allowed Trump to appear on "The View," the "Today" show and "Morning Joe" to question the legitimacy of the country's first Black president as if one had nothing to do with the other.

He was good on TV, so Trump — who had coined the phrase "truthful hyperbole" decades before — didn't have to produce any evidence. Just ratings and clicks.

The nonstop coverage of his 2016 campaign sometimes featured an empty podium as media executives banked on the mere expectation that he would appear. Trump understood all of this. He also understood that millions of Americans felt voiceless. So he leveraged his celebrity to speak on their behalf with the help of an industry he understood how to manipulate all too well.

The media have been covering Trump and his legal woes for 50 years, and he knows we have yet to get it right. Thousands and thousands of lawsuits — for stiffing his contractors, for shutting off tenants' heat in the dead of winter — and yet he was always able to leverage his celebrity to say whatever he wanted on the air.

Maybe instead of asking how we cover Trump, we should be asking why.

Why is there an empty podium on the screen? Why is a person who has been sued repeatedly for fraud allowed to question anyone's legitimacy without proof? And why are the media still letting Trump's tales wag the supposed watchdog?

@LZGranderson



An LAUSD program that should be saved

Teachers, parents and the data agree: The Primary Promise reading and math program has worked extraordinarily well.

By Austin Beutner and Ray Cortines

WE KNOW the best insights about what works in a school classroom come from teachers. That's why when many of them told us they are upset about the dismantling of the Los Angeles Unified School District's successful Primary Promise reading and math program, we became concerned. When we learned that the district had done little to share information about the issue with the more than 20,000 families whose children will be affected by cutting the program, we felt compelled to add our voices to those of teachers: Ending Primary Promise is the wrong move.

Primary Promise provides K-3 students with the individual attention they need to learn to read. And it takes the same approach to help students build a foundation in math.

One doesn't need a jargon-filled, 40-page report to describe the program. Primary Promise funds the hiring and training of teachers and aides who provide direct help to students who need it the most. It's simple, clear and

something that teams at schools have proved they can implement at scale. It's been put into action at more than 300 of the 450 or so elementary schools in L.A. Unified.

The awful truth in public schools across the country is that well more than half of elementary school children cannot read at grade level. This has big implications over a person's lifetime. Learning is cumulative. When children learn to read by third grade they are then able to read to learn; if they miss this mark they are likely to falter in later grades. Research tells us that fourth-graders who can't read at grade level are four times more likely to drop out of school. That in turn means they will go on to have much lower lifetime incomes. Surely, we can't allow more than half of public-school kids to get left behind.

To see how Primary Promise works, let's look inside a typical first-grade classroom with 24 students. One teacher tries to work with the students who are at grade level while also trying to provide help to some students in phonological awareness, others who struggle with the decoding of words and others working on letter sounds.

In other words, we're asking a single teacher to teach four different groups of 6-year-olds at the same time. That's really hard to do.

Primary Promise addresses the challenge by adding a second teacher or aide into the classroom so one teacher can work with the children who are at grade level while the other can provide help to

small groups of students on their specific needs. Students selected to participate in the program are those who need help the most because they are well behind their peers.

This approach takes center stage in the current national discussion about early literacy. Much has been reported on the wholesale shift in New York schools from "balanced literacy," with a focus on discussing stories — theme, character and plot — to the "science of reading," or phonics, which builds on the basics of sounding out and understanding individual words. Primary Promise is providing students in Los Angeles a big head start in the same direction with a curriculum rooted in best practices and teams of trained educators to do the job.

Primary Promise started in 2020. Since then, there have been three published evaluations of its results — October 2021, March 2022 and July 2022. All show that the program works extraordinarily well.

In one measure of the results, the district looked at samples of first-graders before and after the 2020 fall semester. At the beginning of the school year, only nine of 100 students in Primary Promise were reading at grade level, but by the end of the semester, that portion grew to 37 students. That compared to only two of 100 students not in Primary Promise who made similar improvement.

In addition to the data, teachers and families overwhelmingly tell us Primary Promise works. Parents Supporting Teachers, the largest parent-led support group

in L.A. Unified, calls it "the most promising early literacy program in the nation."

Supt. Alberto Carvalho has acknowledged that this approach works but defends his decision to cut the program on the basis of cost while also shifting funding to middle and high schools. The annual investment in Primary Promise is well less than 1% of L.A. Unified's budget and help for secondary school students shouldn't come at the expense of their siblings in elementary school.

L.A. Unified's budget is a reflection of its values. As recently as March, the school district reported a record \$5.8-billion surplus. Yes, some of that is from one-time pandemic relief funds, but unless the money has all disappeared, the superintendent and the school board could come up with the dollars to keep Primary Promise.

At the June 6 school board meeting, the superintendent spoke of evolving Primary Promise into something "more democratic and equitable." We don't know what he means by "democratic and equitable," but we do know that English learners and Black students are making dramatic gains in Primary Promise. How about we call that righteous and way overdue?

Primary Promise has proved to be a remarkable success. It should be continued.

AUSTIN BEUTNER and RAY CORTINES both served as superintendents of L.A. Unified. Primary Promise started when Beutner was superintendent.

Check is in the mail? Watch out for fraud

Americans are warned against using the postal system to send payments as criminals grow more bold.

By Ken Sweet

NEW YORK — Check fraud is back in a big way, fueled by a rise in organized crime that is forcing small businesses and individuals to take additional safety measures or to avoid sending checks through the mail altogether.

Banks issued roughly 680,000 reports of check fraud to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, also known as FinCEN, last year. That's up from 350,000 reports in 2021. Meanwhile the U.S. Postal Inspection Service reported roughly 300,000 complaints of mail theft in 2021, more than double the prior year's total.

Early in the pandemic, government relief checks became an attractive target for criminals. The problem has only gotten worse, and postal authorities and bank officials are warning Americans to avoid mailing checks if possible, or at least to use a secure mail drop such as inside the post office. Meanwhile, as the cases of fraud increase, victims are waiting longer to recover their stolen money.

Check usage has been in decline for decades as Americans have largely switched to paying for their services with credit and debit cards. Americans wrote roughly 3.4 billion checks in 2022, down from nearly 19 billion checks in 1990, according to the Federal Reserve. However, the average size of the checks Americans write rose from \$673 in 1990 — or \$1,602 in today's dollars — to \$2,652 last year.

"Despite the declining use of checks in the United States, criminals have been increasingly targeting the U.S. Mail since the COVID-19



PATRICK T. FALLON AFP/Getty Images

CHECKS are still frequently used by small businesses at a time when fraud claims have increased. Postal authorities and bank officials are warning Americans to avoid mailing checks if possible or to use secure drops.

pandemic to commit check fraud," FinCEN wrote in an alert sent out in February.

Checks are still frequently used by small businesses. Eric Fischgrund, who runs FischTank PR, a 30-person public relations firm in New York, had about 15 checks that were being mailed to him from clients stolen after they all went through the same Postal Service distribution center. Ten of them were successfully cashed by criminals.

The checks were stolen in March and Fischgrund became aware of the problem in April, when several of his clients who were never late missed payments. The Postal Service investigated and Fischgrund has recovered about 70% of the revenue, but some of the cases haven't yet been resolved.

According to the investigator on the case, the perpe-

trators used technology that melted ink in the "to" field of the checks so they could write in fake names. FischTank instructed all its clients to change their paper format because it was dealing with a check fraud issue.

Fischgrund said he'd never previously had an issue with check fraud in the nearly 10 years he has run his own business. Now he has a clause in invoices and new client contracts that asks for electronic payments only. "I don't think we'll ever go back to asking for checks as an option," he said.

Today's check fraud criminals are not small operations, or lone individuals like the Leonardo DiCaprio character in the 2002 movie "Catch Me If You Can," who counterfeited checks from his hotel room and apartment. They are sophisticated criminal operations,

with participants infiltrating post office distribution centers, setting up fake businesses or creating fake IDs to deposit the checks. "Walkers," or people who actually walk in to cash these checks, receive training in how to appear even more legitimate.

In one case in Southern California last year, nearly 60 people were arrested on charges of committing more than \$5 million in check fraud against 750 people.

Criminals are getting the checks or identification information by fishing mail out of U.S. postal boxes, looking for envelopes that appear to be either bill payments or checks being mailed.

The most common type of check fraud is what's known as check washing, where a criminal steals the check from the mail and proceeds to change the payee's

name on the check and, additionally, the amount of money.

Some criminals are going further and using the information found on a check to gather sensitive personal data on a potential victim. There have been reports of criminals creating fake entities out of personal data obtained from a check, or even opening new lines of credit or businesses with that data as well. This allows fraudsters to create new checks using old account data.

That's why check fraud experts are saying Americans should avoid sending checks in the mail or at least take additional safety steps to avoid becoming a victim.

"If you need to mail a check, do not put a check in your residential mailbox and raise the flag to notify the postman. Drop off

checks inside a post office if you have to," said Todd Robertson with Argo Data, a financial data provider.

Banks are increasingly watching for signs of fraud at branches and through mobile check deposit services, including large check deposits. They're training branch employees to take steps such as looking at check numbers, because checks are typically written in order, or noticing when a check is being written for a much larger amount than the customer's previous history would indicate. Banks also now deploy software at their branches that can tell how risky a check might be.

But those systems become moot if criminals are able to persuade tellers — often at the front lines for check acceptance — to look past any red flags.

"These fraudsters are much more aggressive than they were in the past, and they are pressuring tellers to override internal systems that might flag a potentially suspicious transaction," Paul Benda, a senior vice president at the American Bankers Assn.

Banks generally reimburse customers if they are victims of check fraud within days. However, due to the growing number of fraud cases, refunds have slowed down in recent months. In March, a trio of Democratic senators asked the banking industry to be more prompt in reimbursing victims of check fraud whenever possible.

Another safety tip for businesses is to opt in to a bank's "positive pay" services with a business checking account. Positive pay means you preauthorize checks for a certain amount as well as the check number, cutting down criminals' ability to wash the check and withdraw money for an amount that isn't preauthorized.

Sweet writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Mae Anderson contributed to this report.

Biden is extending legal status for 334,000 people from 4 countries

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — The Biden administration said Tuesday that it will extend the legal status by 18 months for more than 330,000 people from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Nepal, disappointing some advocates and members of Congress who sought a more generous offer.

The extensions provide "continued safety and protection" for those already legally in the U.S. who hold temporary protected status, or TPS, which is due to end soon under Trump-era decisions, said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas.

Although the decision benefits an estimated 334,000 people from the four countries, including 239,000 from El Salvador, some had hoped for a far more sweeping gesture, including expanded eligibility for more recent arrivals from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

U.S. Sen. Robert Menen-

dez, a New Jersey Democrat who strongly pressed the White House for extensions, applauded the step but added that it "simply does not go far enough" and suggested that it "may have been driven in part by political calculations instead of sound policy rationale and the conditions in each country."

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas), who was among 116 members of Congress who signed a letter in May seeking an expansion, said the administration "has allowed political fear rather than humanitarian concern to drive its decision."

The administration has aggressively used TPS, a 1990 law that allows people already in the United States to remain, in 18-month increments, if the Homeland Security secretary determines that natural disasters or civil strife prevent them from safely returning home.

Under President Biden, the number of people eligible has soared more than 70% to nearly 1 million by December, reversing a Trump-era trend, according to an

analysis by the Cato Institute, which advocates for more immigration. TPS encompasses 15 countries, including Venezuela and Ukraine, up from 10 under President Trump.

The extensions announced Tuesday will apply to about 239,000 El Salvadorans through March 9, 2025, about 76,000 Hondurans through July 5, 2025, about 14,500 Nepalis through June 24, 2025, and about 4,000 Nicaraguans through July 5, 2025.

But TPS beneficiaries from Central America are required to have lived in the United States more than two decades to be eligible, prompting criticism from advocates that the administration failed to consider recent turmoil in countries including Nicaragua, which last year became one of the top sources of migration to the U.S. TPS for El Salvador was granted after an earthquake in the Central American country in 2001 and for Honduras and Nicaragua after a hurricane in 1998.

Advocates also pushed to

include Guatemala, whose people have never been eligible for TPS.

Although nothing in Tuesday's announcement precludes the administration from later expanding TPS, immediate prospects appeared dimmer.

"It's a disappointment," said Berta Sanles, who has lived in the United States without legal status since she arrived from Nicaragua with her husband and 6-year-old daughter more than two decades ago. The Miami resident says she's holding out hope, though.

Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, chief executive of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, said the extensions are "welcome relief for hundreds of thousands of people who have found safety in the United States, many of whom have called this country home for decades now."

But she also called it "a missed opportunity to expand protections to more recent arrivals, whose return to danger would be no less devastating."



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI Associated Press

DENVER POLICE at the site of the shooting, which occurred as fans celebrated the Nuggets' big victory.

10 injured in shooting after Nuggets' title win

The Denver attack is probably linked to a drug deal, police say.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — A shooting in downtown Denver amid fans celebrating the Nuggets' first NBA title win was probably sparked by a drug deal gone wrong, police said Tuesday. The violence left 10 people wounded, including one of two suspected shooters.

All of the injured are expected to survive, including five or six people that police believe were bystanders not involved in the drug deal, Chief Ron Thomas said at a news conference. He said 20 rounds were fired at the scene, roughly a mile from Ball Arena, where the Nuggets defeated the Miami Heat on Monday night.

Police spokesperson Doug Schepman said the shooting was "in the area where we had the largest gathering of folks celebrating during the night," but the crowd had "diminished quite a bit at that point."

The gunfire broke out about 12:30 a.m. — about 3½ hours after the game — the Denver Police Department said in a statement.

Scott D'Angelo was livestreaming when he heard loud pops one after another, sparking pandemonium as people dived for cover or jumped over concrete barricades. Police in riot gear ducked and scrambled to draw their guns while

yelling for people to find shelter.

Crouching on the ground, the 58-year-old D'Angelo said his arms were shaking with nerves and he felt an asthma attack coming.

As officers started to move toward the gunfire, D'Angelo heard a female voice not a dozen feet away "screaming out in pain." Another victim lay just beyond the first, D'Angelo said, as officers rushed to provide care.

The shooting ended after roughly 20 seconds, he said after consulting his footage, which he has handed over to law enforcement. As ambulances arrived, D'Angelo saw a long trail of blood from a victim who must have been "profusely bleeding." Then he saw bullet casings only feet from where he had dropped to the ground.

The gunfire broke out in downtown Denver's LoDo district, which is known for its restaurants and nightlife. Yellow police tape sealed off the area overnight Tuesday as investigators scoured the scene, which was dotted with evidence markers and what appeared to be detritus left over from the celebrations, including an e-scooter and a green rental bike.

D'Angelo said he felt "kind of numb" after witnessing the violence.

"To target somebody, and indiscriminately shoot innocent bystanders, even trying to think about it, it's like — I have a huge emotional, a lot of feelings that I really can't explain," he said.

Jury is told of gunman's antisemitic posts

Prosecution shares his online rants to show religious hatred in mass shooting at Pittsburgh synagogue.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH — A gunman who killed 11 worshippers at a Pittsburgh synagogue ranted incessantly on social media about his hatred of Jewish people before the 2018 attack, according to evidence introduced Tuesday at his federal death penalty trial.

Prosecutors are trying to show that Robert Bowers was motivated by extreme hostility toward Jews when

he opened fire at Tree of Life Synagogue during Sabbath services in the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history.

The 50-year-old truck driver is charged with 63 criminal counts, including hate crimes resulting in death, and the obstruction of the free exercise of religion resulting in death. Some of the charges carry a potential death sentence.

With the trial in its third week, testimony turned toward Bowers' use of Gab — a social media platform popular with the far right — to advance his antisemitic views.

Bowers' Gab profile said that "Jews are the children of Satan," and he posted, liked and shared a stream of virulently antisemitic content,

according to dozens of examples provided to the jury Monday and Tuesday. Bowers called Jews "public enemy number one," according to a post read by an FBI agent, spoke approvingly of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi extermination of Jews, and shared an image that said "the only good Jew is a dead Jew."

On the morning of the attack, Bowers posted about HIAS, a Jewish agency that helps refugees resettle in the United States. Dor Hadash, one of the three congregations that shared the Tree of Life building, worked with HIAS.

"HIAS likes to bring invaders in that kill our people. I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I'm going

in," Bowers posted.

Working to spare his life, Bowers' lawyers have acknowledged he was the shooter but are questioning the alleged motive. The defense has suggested he did not act out of religious hatred but rather in a delusional belief that Jews were enabling genocide by helping immigrants come to the United States.

Survivors have previously testified about the terror they felt that day as Bowers barged into the synagogue and shot everyone he could find. And police officers have testified about exchanging gunfire with Bowers, who surrendered after being shot three times.

Five police officers and two other people were wounded in the rampage.

CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



AERIAL VIEWS of houseboats on Lake Oroville show the contrast in water levels on Sept. 4, 2021, top, and on April 16, 2023, above. A wet winter has left California’s reservoirs looking healthier than they have for years.

Lake Oroville is 100% full

No more bathtub ring. The reservoir, which was at 24% in 2021, is releasing water as rain and snowmelt flow in. No flood risk is seen.

By NATHAN SOLIS

California’s second-largest reservoir is now completely full after a historic rainy season recharged reservoirs across the state following years of drought.

Lake Oroville, fed by the Feather River about 80 miles north of Sacramento, is at 100% of its capacity, according to the California Department of Water Resources.

Since Dec. 1, the lake’s water level has increased more than 240 feet thanks to more than 2.5 million additional acre-feet of water brought on by a series of powerful winter storms and the melting of a historically deep

snowpack. That puts the reservoir at 127% of its historical average for the date, state data show.

Scattered showers arrived Tuesday afternoon in the Sierra Nevada and areas east of Oroville, according to the National Weather Service, but dam operators at the reservoir do not expect a deluge of water or a risk of flooding downstream.

The Department of Water Resources has increased the outflow of water from the main spillway at Oroville Dam and an outlet farther south to ensure the full reservoir can hold snowmelt without overflowing. Officials noted that scattered waves could crest over the dam’s emergency spillway, which was repaired after

nearly collapsing in a 2017 storm.

Tracy Pettit-Polhemus, supervising engineer for the DWR’s State Water Project Operations Control Office, said in an email that the agency increased the outflow from Oroville in recent months but started to ramp down on Tuesday. There is no potential for flood risk, according to Pettit-Polhemus.

Peak inflow at Lake Oroville occurred in April and is trending downward, though it could tick up at times due to a late-season storm or increased snowmelt from a heat wave, State Water Project official John Yarbrough told news station KCRA.

It’s a far cry from the situation in 2021, when Lake Oroville was at 24% ca-

Infrastructure is a sticking point in budget talks

Key Democrats are at odds with Newsom over his plan to speed up construction.

By TARYN LUNA

SACRAMENTO — Democrats leading California’s Senate and Assembly on Monday announced a legislative state budget deal, but they remain at odds with Gov. Gavin Newsom over his sweeping plan to streamline major infrastructure projects and reduce environmental litigation delays.

Newsom introduced a series of budget bills related to infrastructure last month after lawmakers had already wrapped up committee hearings on spending proposals. Fellow Democrats have criticized the governor over the late-arriving legislation and expressed concern about not having sufficient time to consider potential impacts on communities and the environment.

“I just want to express my extreme disappointment that this comes at this time,” said Sen. Susan Talamantes Eggman, a Demo-

crat who lives in Stockton and represents cities in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, during a Senate hearing last week. “It feels disrespectful to the process, to all the work that we’ve done.”

Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lake-wood) said they are “continuing to negotiate and make progress” on a budget deal with the governor. Lawmakers intend to pass their agreed-upon budget Thursday to meet a June 15 legislative deadline and then amend the budget bill after reaching a final agreement with Newsom in the coming days.

Though the act of passing a preliminary budget and following up with an amended bill has become commonplace in Newsom’s tenure, an estimated budget deficit of at least \$31.5 billion has heightened Democratic discord at the state Capitol this year. Interest groups are lobbying to preserve funding promised in stronger revenue years, and Newsom and lawmakers continue to squabble over where to pare

[See Budget, B4]

Man, 34, guilty of threats on clinics

A pair of Planned Parenthood sites were among the targets of illegal intimidation.

By GRACE TOOHEY

A Ventura County man pleaded guilty to making death threats against two Southern California Planned Parenthood clinics, just hours after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade last summer, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Nishith Tharaka Vandebona, 34, was convicted Monday in federal court of illegal intimidation after pleading guilty to making at least three different threats, including one at an unrelated advocacy group months before the Supreme Court decision.

Threats and violence against reproductive health-care facilities have become increasingly common, with the U.S. Department of Justice noting more than two dozen such cases have

been prosecuted in the last four years, including a group that tried to physically block entrance to a Washington, D.C., clinic last year and a man who in 2020 and 2021 shot a BB gun at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Pasadena.

On June 24, 2022 — the day the Supreme Court ruled in the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case, overturning the 1973 decision that had previously affirmed the right to abortion — Vandebona admitted he used an anonymous number to make death threats against Planned Parenthood California Central Coast, based in Santa Barbara, according to a news release about his plea agreement.

The following day, Vandebona called Planned Parenthood Los Angeles multiple times, and made threats to a call center specialist, the news release said.

According to officials, Vandebona told the clinic he was going to “come in there and kill all of you, including your staff and your security.”

[See Threats, B5]

A priest walked into this taqueria

Sacramento eatery suspected of wage theft steered workers to confess on-job sins.

By NOAH GOLDBERG

A Northern California taqueria under investigation for wage theft brought in a priest to get workers to “confess” about sins they had committed in the workplace, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Taqueria Garibaldi in Sacramento was already under investigation by the Wage and Hour Division when its owner Eduardo Hernandez offered the services of the priest to employ-

ees in November 2021 — only for the restaurant’s Catholic workers to describe the experience as unlike any confession they’d ever experienced before.

“I found the conversation to be strange and unlike normal confessions,” said Maria Parra, who worked as a server at Taqueria Garibaldi.

Instead of confessing to what she wanted to confess about, the priest informed Parra that he would be asking her questions to “get the sins out of me,” she wrote in a sworn affidavit attached to a Department of Labor lawsuit filed against the restaurant and its owners last year.

“He asked if I ever got pulled over for speeding, if I

[See Confession, B2]

2nd man dies in graffiti shooting

Northridge resident, 69, was a random casualty of attack at an ice cream shop. **B3**

U.S. sues city over plane crash

Suit faults San Diego and Brown Field airport after small craft hits Osprey. **B3**

Vandals push ‘straight pride’

Anti-LGBTQ+ posters are put up at several businesses in Santa Rosa. **B3**

Treat Williams dies at age 71

The actor known for “Hair” is killed in a motorcycle accident in Vermont. **B5**

Lottery **B2**

3 sperm whales seen off O.C.

Endangered animals recognizable by sideways spout



MATT STUMPF Capt. Dave’s Dolphin & Whale Watching Safari

A SPERM WHALE, spotted June 8 off Dana Point. “It’s kind of like seeing a unicorn,” an observer said.

By SAUMYA GUPTA

The Orange County coast draws all sorts of visitors this time of year, but some are making a particularly big splash.

A trio of sperm whales — believed to be adult males, each about 50 to 60 feet long — has been spotted several times this month. These rare sightings are a positive sign considering that the species is endangered and that sperm whales spend a great deal of time in deep water.

On June 3, the group was seen off Laguna Beach; the next day, it was about 40 miles away from Newport Beach, near San Clemente.

[See Whales, B5]



The poster features a light blue background with stylized illustrations of food items in the corners: a pink and yellow burger in the top left, a blue and yellow cocktail glass in the top right, a blue and yellow sandwich in the bottom right, and a blue and yellow fork and knife in the bottom left. The central text is in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'Los Angeles Times' in black and 'FOOD BOWL' in large, bold, pink letters. Below the title, it says 'Presented by CITY NATIONAL BANK AN RBC COMPANY' with the bank's logo. The main text describes the event as a monthlong food festival celebrating L.A.'s diverse and dynamic culinary scene, mentioning the 7th annual L.A. Times Food Bowl, the Gold Award, Restaurant of the Year, and Night Market. It encourages attendees to get tickets at lafoodbowl.com. The bottom of the poster lists sponsors: City National Bank (Presenting Partner), Singapore Airlines, Acqua Panna, S. Pellegrino, and Tajiri (Major Sponsors); and Food Bank (Charity Sponsor).

Los Angeles Times

FOOD BOWL

Presented by
CITY NATIONAL BANK
 AN RBC COMPANY

A monthlong food festival celebrating L.A.'s diverse and dynamic culinary scene.

Taste your way through the best of L.A. with a month of unique culinary experiences: The 7th annual L.A. Times Food Bowl, presented by City National Bank, returns this September!

The Times has curated a full month of can't-miss events, celebrating L.A.'s world-class food scene with the legendary **Gold Award**, Times food critic Bill Addison's **Restaurant of the Year** and **Night Market**, a weekend food festival at Paramount Pictures Studios.

Most events sell out, so don't wait!
 Get tickets and browse the schedule at
lafoodbowl.com

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CITY & STATE

Shops hit by ‘straight pride’ vandals

BY NOAH GOLDBERG

Several businesses in Santa Rosa were vandalized this week with anti-LGBTQ+ posters linking to a rap song celebrating “straight pride,” authorities said.

The posters were discovered at several locations around the city, including Brew Coffee and Beer House, which is queer-owned, as well as Shady Oak Barrel House, according to their social media accounts. In some instances, the posters were placed over Pride flag emblems.

“Some Haters tried to cover all our windows with anti LGBTQ+ posters in Santa Rosa. This is a Hate Crime,” Brew Coffee and Beer House wrote on its Facebook page. “We are a queer-owned business and Proudly represent inclusivity and safety. We face hate like this all year long and it is why it’s important that Pride month happens and why we must stand together every day to protect each other.”

The businesses said the vandalism occurred Sunday night.

Alisse Cottle, owner of Brew Coffee and Beer House, said she was opening the cafe around 7 a.m. Monday when she and her team found about eight of the posters plastered on the windows.

They were “strategically” placed over a “Protect Trans Lives” sign and a “Black Lives Matter” sign, Cottle said.

She and her wife own the cafe and said the queer-owned and queer-friendly space has been the target of anti-LGBTQ+ ire in the past.

“We do get threats. We’ve had people get egged outside. We had people start a fight on the patio. We had someone threaten to come back and shoot us if we didn’t take down our posters outside,” Cottle said.

Their cafe has been operating in Santa Rosa for nine years.

Shady Oak Barrel House posted a video on Instagram of an employee taking down one of the posters.

When scanned, the QR code on the signs linked to a YouTube video from rapper GNotesJustice, whose lyrics celebrate “straight pride” and who repeatedly says, “I love being hetero.”

The posters also linked to a website for Redwood Holler, which said it’s working to make California “great again one helping hand at a time,” according to the Santa Rosa Press Democrat.

The website had an email address and YouTube channel connected with a Bay Area group of the Proud Boys, a far-right group, the Press Democrat reported.

“The businesses targeted were primarily in or near downtown, LGBTQ+ owned or supporters of the LGBTQ+ community,” the Santa Rosa Police Department said. “Unknown people defaced private businesses with stickers, promoted hateful rhetoric and used the stickers to cover up support for LGBTQ+ rights, trans rights and BLM.”

Police are investigating the incident and have asked residents to send tips.



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

NO MORE FOR POLICE

The Police Free LAUSD Coalition holds a downtown rally calling on the district’s board to oppose any increase in the school-police budget and implement community-based public safety programs.

Second man dies after shooting outside ice cream shop in April

The 69-year-old was wounded in Northridge during a graffiti cleanup

BY NOAH GOLDBERG

Adriana Smith was at her mother’s house in Northridge when she heard the sirens and father of three

who had been hired to paint over the graffiti, died shortly after being shot. He was working to make money to send to his daughter in Nicaragua for her 9th birthday.

Marin survived longer. But the initial nightmare of that day was only the beginning for his family. For the next two months, he remained in the hospital, undergoing surgeries and dealing with complications after being shot.

Marin, a father of five, died Saturday after his third surgery, this one to address an infection in his pancreas.

“What comes to all of our minds is that it was just a senseless act of violence. For it to happen in broad daylight, someone offended over some graffiti, it’s just ... I don’t know,” Smith said.

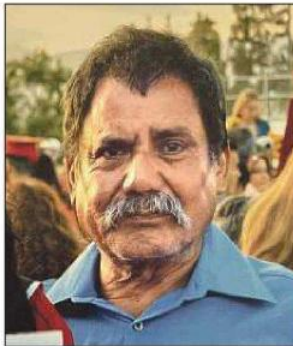
some of them were painting over graffiti that he said he and other gang members had tagged that day.

Another man, Juan López, 39, a Nicaraguan immigrant and father of three who had been hired to paint over the graffiti, died shortly after being shot. He was working to make money to send to his daughter in Nicaragua for her 9th birthday.

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ADRIANA SMITH

BENJAMIN Marin Sr. liked to hang out in the area near the ice cream shop, his daughter said.

Marin immigrated to the United States from Mexico in the 1970s after he married the mother of his children. He gained permanent residency through a 1980s amnesty program.

He lived in Northridge for more than 40 years and ran an auto detail business called Quaizar for decades, teaching his children how to work on cars, his daughter

said.

He fought hard after the attack, his family said. He regained consciousness for about a week and even gained the strength to speak. He had no recollection of the shooting.

Marin told his children how shocked he was that a crime would happen to him in that area.

“I remember him clearly saying, ‘That’s never happened here before,’” said son Fidencio Marin. “He was just in disbelief that it happened to him in that area because he never sees the bad in people. He would always see the good in people.”

Marin’s optimism continued even during his hospitalization.

“I remember him comforting me, saying, ‘Don’t worry. I’m going to recover from this. I’ll be OK. Everything will be fine,’” Fidencio Marin said.

The family is raising money for Marin’s funeral costs.

2 CHP cars crash into each other

Officers were chasing a biker. One cruiser broke through a La Puente home’s fence.

BY TONY BRISCOE

Two California Highway Patrol cruisers in pursuit of a speeding motorcyclist Saturday afternoon collided with each other and crashed through a La Puente home’s wrought-iron fence — coming to rest very close to the front of the house.

“I see two Highway Patrols on the frontyard right by my mom’s room, and I run to check on her,” Nestor Rendon, an occupant of the home, told KABC-TV Channel 7. “She was fine, thank God.”

Around 4:40 p.m. Saturday, California Highway



KTLA-TV Channel 5

NO ONE was seriously injured in the chain of events Saturday afternoon in La Puente, the CHP said.

Patrol officers attempted to pull over a motorcyclist traveling westbound on the 10 Freeway in the San Gabriel Valley, according to authorities. The motorcyclist continued to speed off, leading pursuing officers off the freeway.

At the intersection of Ector Street and Hacienda Boulevard, the CHP cruisers crashed into each other, sending at least one bursting through a house’s white wrought-iron fence and into the frontyard, according to TV news outlets. Another

car, unrelated to the police chase, struck a nearby fire hydrant.

No one was seriously injured, a CHP spokesperson said. But the crash was an alarming reminder of how often bystanders are swept up in the chaos of Southern California law enforcement pursuits.

Los Angeles Police Department officers have been involved in at least 4,203 pursuits since 2018, according to an April report by The Times. About one-quarter (1,032) resulted in injuries or death, and people who aren’t involved in the chase are more likely to be hurt or killed than the fleeing suspect.

An aerial law enforcement unit found the suspect, who had ditched his bike and attempted to hide nearby. He was apprehended around 5:20 p.m.

U.S. sues San Diego over crash

BY ALEX RIGGINS

SAN DIEGO — The federal government is suing over a 2020 incident in which a skydiving plane rolled and slowly crashed into a parked, unoccupied Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey aircraft at Brown Field in San Diego’s Otay Mesa neighborhood.

The lawsuit, filed this month in San Diego federal court and first reported by military.com, seeks more than \$5.7 million in damages, alleging the defendants owe the federal government “for the value of the repair and transportation costs.”

The suit alleges that the city of San Diego and Brown Field Municipal Airport mismanaged the facility by failing to maintain adequate parking for the Marine aircraft on the first night of a three-day training. That forced the Marine flight crew to park in an unsafe location where the Osprey, a large tilt-rotor aircraft, was struck by the skydiving plane, the lawsuit says.

A spokesperson for the San Diego city attorney’s office, which is expected to defend the city and Brown Field, declined to comment last week, citing the pending litigation.

The lawsuit also names as defendants Washington skydiving company Kapowsin Air Sports as the plane’s owner and Tac Air Ops, a limited liability company that does business as Skydive San Diego, as the operator.

A representative from Kapowsin declined to comment, while representatives from Tac Air Ops and Skydive San Diego did not respond to requests for comment.

According to the lawsuit, the crash occurred about 9:40 a.m. on May 30, 2020. The night before, a flight crew had piloted the Osprey from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar to Brown Field as part of routine training.

When the flight crew landed at Brown Field and taxied toward what was supposed to be its designated parking spot, the crew “discovered that the airport failed to maintain adequate parking” at that location, according to the lawsuit.

The crew found an alternative area to park the plane.

But the parking spot they chose presented hazards that were not present at the other spot, including “increased congestion associated with neighboring aircraft traffic and parking,” the lawsuit said.

The crew left the Osprey near two other planes, including a twin-engine skydiving plane, a De Havilland Canada DHC-6 Twin Otter, that had just spent two weeks under maintenance, according to the lawsuit and a city of San Diego “unusual incident report” published by U.S. Naval Institute News.

When the pilot, who is also a named defendant, started the engines on the twin-engine skydiving plane, it began rolling toward the Osprey, according to the lawsuit, which alleges that the pilot unsuccessfully tried to stop the plane.

The Twin Otter crashed into the Osprey, sparking a fire that witnesses helped extinguish.

U.S. Naval Institute News published photos showing the Osprey had sustained significant damage to its left wing, engine and propeller blade.

The lawsuit alleges the skydiving plane “was not in good working condition at the time of the incident.” According to the suit, the pilot told the Federal Aviation Administration that the Twin Otter’s brakes and steering were unresponsive when it crashed into the Osprey.

Riggins writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Disneyland will offer deals on off-peak summer days

BY VANESSA ARREDONDO

Just in time for the summer travel season, Disneyland has announced plans to offer some of its cheapest tickets.

Some Disneyland tickets will be as low as \$104 this summer, part of the park’s promise to provide nearly two months’ worth of reduced admission for the resort’s 100-year anniversary celebration.

The lower-priced tickets will be available on select weeks — usually from Monday to Thursday — through August and September.

The park adopted a demand pricing system in 2016 that reduces ticket prices on low-demand days and increases them on high-demand days. Disneyland ticket prices can range from

\$104 to \$179.

Aug. 21 is the first date cheaper tickets will be available, and the lower price will be offered through Aug. 24. Lower prices are also available Aug. 28 to Aug. 31.

Disney fans don’t seem too excited about the prices, based on some of the comments left on the Disney Blog site. They also groused about the requirement that fans make a reservation.

“The changes over the last couple of years have taken away so much spontaneity and magic,” Judith, a longtime Disneyland fan, said in a comment about the ticket prices.

Last year, the lower-priced tickets were offered for only three days during August, Disneyland officials said.

In September, \$104 tickets will be available on 15

dates. Last year, the month had nine lower-priced days.

Visitors can also attend Disneyland’s Halloween festivities, which begin Sept. 1 and run through Oct. 31, for a much lower price.

The cheaper tickets will be available Sept. 5 to Sept. 7, and the rest of Mondays to Thursdays in the month.

During summer, California residents can buy single-park tickets for as low as \$83.

Infrastructure policy a budget sticking point

[Budget, from B1]

back spending.

The Legislature's \$311.7-billion spending plan unveiled Monday was crafted after 120 public hearings over the last six months. The legislative budget plan increases funding for education, child care, public transit and Medi-Cal over levels Newsom proposed in his revised budget in May. It also reverses Newsom's plan to spend \$450 million from the Safety Net Reserve, an account created to shore up funding for programs such as CalWorks and Medi-Cal during a downturn.

Other areas that need to be ironed out with the governor include:

■ **Child care:** Lawmakers want to provide \$1 billion in temporary rate increases for child care providers. The legislative agreement rejects the governor's proposal to delay opening subsidized child care for 20,000 additional kids and instead releases the slots on July 1, 2024.

■ **Healthcare:** Newsom and lawmakers are in agreement about using a tax on managed healthcare organizations, known as the MCO tax, to fund Medi-Cal at a time when the state is expanding eligibility to all immigrants who qualify regardless of immigration status. But the two sides disagree over the timeline to spend the money. The governor wants to spend the tax revenue over eight to 10 years, while lawmakers are pushing to invest \$10.3 billion through the end of 2026

to improve reimbursement rates to healthcare providers and expand access to care.

■ **Transit:** Lawmakers also want to restore a \$2-billion reduction in transportation funding that Newsom proposed in May.

Newsom's infrastructure plan remains the biggest point of contention between the governor and lawmakers, who have questioned why the bills must be passed now instead of through the regular and more deliberative legislative process for policy issues that concludes in September, or even next year.

Newsom administration officials said the 10 bills proposed by the governor are critical to meeting California's climate goals. The governor's office has called the bills California's "most ambitious permitting and project review reforms in a half-century" and said the legislation could reduce project timelines by more than three years in some cases.

Some outside interests agree that the bills are important, but also shared the Legislature's concerns.

Mary Creasman, chief executive of California Environmental Voters, said it's clear that California needs accelerated permitting for clean energy projects and needs to protect its rich biodiversity.

"We need a thorough policymaking process that is not jamming through budget trailer bills," Creasman said.

One bill in the governor's



JOHN G. MABANGLO Associated Press

THE LEGISLATURE wonders why Gov. Newsom wants infrastructure bills passed now instead of after talks. Above, Newsom speaks at a solar farm in May.

plan aims to reduce the opportunity for lengthy record preparation delays due to lawsuits filed under the California Environmental Quality Act, which can sink building projects. Another proposal would speed up judicial review in CEQA lawsuits related to water, transportation, clean energy, and semiconductor or micro-electronic projects.

Newsom's proposed changes would also make it

easier to complete his controversial plan for an underground tunnel to transport water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to Southern California.

Newsom also wants to allow the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank, known as IBank, and the Department of Water Resources to take advantage of and leverage federal funding for projects that reduce greenhouse gas.

For public transportation projects, his package would make it easier to approve environmental mitigation and permits for California Department of Transportation projects that affect endangered species or are within the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Newsom also wants to repeal laws and reclassify several species that are "fully protected" to "threatened" and "endangered" under

the California Endangered Species Act.

Another proposal would allow Caltrans to directly contract to construct three wildlife crossings along Interstate 15 in San Bernardino County and to change its contracting procurement process to speed up highway projects.

Newsom wants to allow the state Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Transportation to use a more flexible contracting process for up to eight major projects each.

Atkins said the Senate is reviewing the governor's proposals and engaging in talks with the Assembly and the administration.

"It's important to my Senate Democratic colleagues and I that streamlining is in keeping with California's commitment to environmental protections," Atkins said.

John Casey, a spokesman for Rendon, said the Assembly is doing the same.

"We are digging in to understand what specific problems the governor is trying to solve and working toward legislation that will address those problems in a workable way," the speaker's office said in a statement.

The governor's office hopes to land a final budget agreement with the Legislature this week.

Times staff writers Liam Dillon and Hannah Wiley contributed to this report.

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

S	M	Y	E	S				
T	N	Y	E	R				
V	I	T	A	E	N			
L	I	T	O	V	E			

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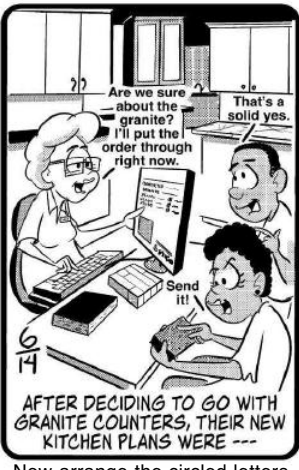
Ans. here:

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Yesterday's Jumbles: HOUND YOUNG STORMY DETACH
Answer: When her friend said he was now working as a mime, she said — YOU DON'T SAY!

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Answers tomorrow)

Legal Notices

Emmanuel Serrano, a minor, Aryelle Savannah Serrano, a minor by and through Silvia Cano Mejia, their mother. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name Xavier Emmanuel Serrano, Aryelle Savannah Serrano
Proposed Name Xavier Agustin Mejia, Aryelle Savannah Mejia
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: July 5 2023
TIME: 8:30am
DEPT: F51
ROOM: 6/14

The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles 9425 Penfield Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county. Dated: 05/03/2023 David W. Slayton Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
Published in the Los Angeles Times 05/24/23, 05/31/23, 06/07/23, 06/14/23

Name Change

Nataliya V Qutner (Natalya Moshlyak Kutner) 1600 Esplanade Unit D, Redondo Beach, CA 90277
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED: Petitioner Nataliya V Qutner (Natalya Moshlyak Kutner) filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name Nataliya V Qutner
Proposed Name Veranika Natalia Qutner
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: July 14, 2023
TIME: 8:30 am
DEPT: M
ROOM: 6/14

The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles 825 Maple Ave, Torrance, CA 90503 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county. Dated: June, 02, 2023 July, 14, 2023
Order to Show Cause for a Change of Name
Published in the Los Angeles Times 06/07/23, 06/14/23, 06/21/23, 06/28/23

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 23TRCP00228
Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):

Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 22CHLC01441
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): CHAD G MOKLER
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extensión de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin lines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin lines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 9425 Penfield Avenue Chatsworth, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

REESE LAW GROUP
3168 Lionhead Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92010
760/842-5850 (File No. 566531)

DATE (Fecha): 01/18/2022
Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Clerk (Secretario), by L. Lacanlale, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
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Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 22CHLC01441

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

CHAD G MOKLER

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extensión de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin lines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin lines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 9425 Penfield Avenue Chatsworth, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

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3168 Lionhead Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92010
760/842-5850 (File No. 566531)

DATE (Fecha): 01/18/2022
Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Clerk (Secretario), by L. Lacanlale, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28/23

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Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 22STCV14698

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

Therodore C. Llewellyn, an individual and DOES 1 TO 20, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

Chantelle Eastman, an individual

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

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The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Los Angeles Superior Court Central District 111 N. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Saul Reise, SBN 48528, Law Offices of Saul Reise, PC 11835 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 41 SE Los Angeles, CA 90064 (310) 450-2888

DATE (Fecha): 05/03/2022

Sherri R. Carter Clerk (Secretario) H. Flores-Hernandez Deputy (Adjunto)

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TREAT WILLIAMS

Actor gained fame in musical ‘Hair’

By EMILY ST. MARTIN

Treat Williams, a star of the TV show “Everwood” and the musical “Hair,” was killed in a motorcycle accident in Vermont on Monday evening.

The death of the 71-year-old actor was confirmed to The Times by Williams’ agent of 20 years, Barry McPherson.

“They couldn’t save him,” an emotional McPherson said. “And it’s just such a terrible thing, an unnecessary thing.”

Williams was riding his motorcycle on a roadway when a car crossed in front of him, and he crashed into it, McPherson said. Williams was still conscious when his wife, Pam Van Sant, and son Gill Williams arrived at the scene. He died of internal injuries, McPherson said.

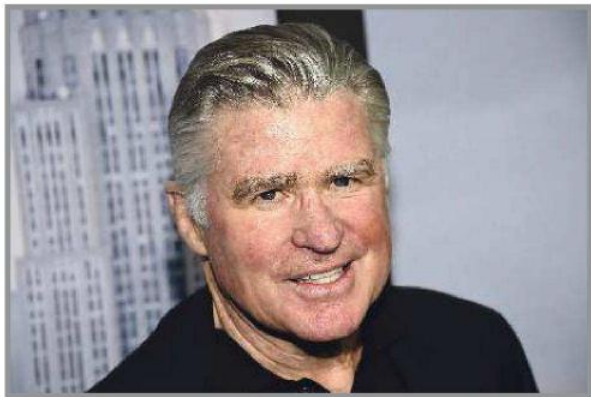
“He’d been such a happy guy,” the agent said, fighting back tears, “working non-stop, and he has great projects coming out that he was excited about, and just to have this happen out of the blue like this. I’m still stunned.”

About 30 minutes before the crash, he posted a video to Twitter of a man tending to his farm with the caption, “What a real Vermonter does.”

Jacob Gribble, the fire chief in Dorset, Vt., told People that the crash happened around 5 p.m. on Route 30.

Gribble said Williams was airlifted to a hospital in New York. Not long after, he succumbed to his injuries.

McPherson said Williams had been excited for a forthcoming project, Ryan Murphy’s “Feud: Capote’s Women,” in which the actor portrays former CBS head and media tycoon Bill Paley, alongside Tom Hollander as Capote, Calista Flockhart, Diane Lane, Naomi Watts



EVAN AGOSTINI Invision/AP

‘A TRIPLE THREAT OF HIS CRAFT’

Williams appeared on stage and screen, including in “Grease,” “Hair” and “Prince of the City.”

and Chloe Sevigny.

“I hope everybody appreciates how wonderful he was,” McPherson said. “Just beloved by filmmakers and other actors.”

In a statement shared with Deadline, the Williams family said: “As you can imagine, we are shocked and greatly bereaved at this time. Treat was full of love for his family, for his life and for his craft, and was truly at the top of his game in all of it. It is all so shocking right now, but please know that Treat was dearly and deeply loved and respected by his family and everyone who knew him.

“We are beyond devastated and ask that you respect our privacy as we deal with our grief,” the statement continued. “To all his fans, please know that Treat appreciated all of you and please continue to keep him in your hearts and prayers.”

Williams debuted on the big screen with the 1975 thriller “Deadly Hero” and gained wider fame in the 1979 musical film “Hair,” when his portrayal of George Berger landed him a Golden Globe Award nomination for new star of the year.

He was also nominated for a Golden Globe for actor

in a motion picture drama for the 1981 film “Prince of the City.” Williams also had roles in the films “The Eagle Has Landed,” “Once Upon a Time in America” and “The Late Shift,” as well as countless other film, stage and television roles. Williams notably starred as Dr. Andrew “Andy” Brown on the celebrated television series “Everwood” from 2002 to 2006.

Williams appeared in 1996 on “The Late Show With David Letterman” to promote his 1995 neo-noir dark comedy, “Things to Do in Denver When You’re Dead.” He told Letterman about life on his 15-acre Vermont “farmette,” describing himself as a “bad gentleman farmer” with no animals but lots of plants, a fruit orchard and grapevines.

He was also a passionate aviator and often flew his small plane back and forth from Vermont to New York. He learned how to fly as a teenager; his football coach was a Navy SEAL who gave him two free flying lessons. During the Sundance Film Festival in 2011, Williams said that, at 17, he had no money, so he started singing at parties and driving a cab, and that he got his pilot’s license.

“And I just never stopped,” he said, before adding that he worked in musicals and saved enough money to buy an airplane for \$3,000. “I got all the ratings. I went straight up from private, commercial, and then I got my helicopter [license], commercial flight instructor.”

Flying, he said, is “very close for me to church. It is a place where I can communicate with a higher power. It’s a place where I feel that I’m in control of my life, which in our industry is very difficult to feel.”

In December 2020, Williams discussed acting in musicals during a featurette for Netflix’s “Dolly Parton’s Christmas on the Square” and said that his all-time favorite role was playing T-Birds bad boy Danny Zuko in “Grease.” He said it taught him everything he knew about stage acting and musicals.

The “Hair” star also played guitar and sang in a band with Air Supply’s Graham Russell. They played covers of their favorite songs from the last several decades and, according to Williams, raised a “couple hundred thousand dollars” for Save the Children’s tsunami relief fund as well as other causes.

“Treat Williams was a super mensch, an actors actor, and not to mention a triple threat of his craft,” entertainment publicist Danny Deraney tweeted.

Also posting a tribute was Mark Hamill, who portrayed Luke Skywalker in “Star Wars” and worked with Williams in “Star Wars: Episode V — The Empire Strikes Back”: “Such a wonderful person ... such a gifted actor ... such a treasured friend. I’m gutted. RIP Pal.”

The actor is survived by his wife, actor and producer Pam Van Sant; and their two children, Gill and Elinor.

Oroville is 100% full after wet winter

[Reservoir, from B1] pacity and the state was pockmarked with dry lake beds after three consecutive drought years.

Farther north, Shasta Lake — which now is 97% full — was at 38% of capacity in the middle of last summer, boasting an unmistakable “bathtub ring” high above the water, showing where levels at California’s largest reservoir typically reach in a healthy rain season.

In October, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Central Valley Project, which manages Shasta Lake and its outflow, reported that the water year would start with just 3.6 million acre-feet of storage water, marking one of the lowest figures in re-

cent years. The federal agency said it would be “increasingly difficult, if not impossible” to meet all the demands of its customers across 29 counties.

California also asked its customers to prepare for extremely limited water supply conditions due to projected shortages. Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth said California was in “the dawn of a new era” because of climate change and people would need to adapt.

But a very dry California ended 2022 with a strong, wet rainy season that carried over into 2023 for several weeks. Reservoirs and lakes across the state bounced back.

The drastic cuts projected by the DWR all but evaporated in April when the state agency said it would be able to deliver 100% of requested supplies from its 29 public water agencies for the first time since 2006. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation also said it would deliver 100% of requested water allocations for most regions served by the federal Central Valley Project.

A year ago, all of California was experiencing some level of drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The latest data show more than 70% of California not experiencing any abnormally dry conditions.

What that means for California’s future is unclear.

California rolled back some of its severe drought restrictions after the rainy season, but Gov. Gavin Newsom did not declare the drought over.

Pettit-Polhemus with the DWR said the most recent deluge of rain helped build up the state’s snowpacks, but it’s not going to turn around California’s drought situation.

“While this precipitation has helped surface water supplies and eased impacts from the state’s record-breaking drought, California’s groundwater basins are still depleted due to prolonged dry conditions and will require more than a single wet year to recover,” she added.

O.C. delighted by sperm whales

[Whales, from B1] One of the behemoths was sighted Thursday off Dana Point, and on Friday, they were between the San Pedro coast and Santa Catalina Island. One was seen Saturday near Redondo Canyon.

Delaney Trowbridge, a captain and wildlife photographer with Newport Coastal Adventure, has dubbed two of the whales Coconut and Papaya — an homage to Mango, an older sperm whale that was seen often around the area in past years. The third whale doesn’t yet have a name.

Papaya has been spied in waters off Orange County before — at least 10 times over the last 10 years, Trowbridge said.

On June 3, the first day the three were spotted, tour guides were looking for blue whales off Laguna Beach, Trowbridge said. When they saw a whale surface and spout, they realized it wasn’t the upward stream of a blue whale but an outward geyser. A sperm whale’s blowhole is located asymmetrically on the side of the head.

“As soon as you see one blow, then you know it’s a sperm whale,” said Dave Anderson, owner of Capt. Dave’s Dolphin & Whale Watching Safari. “There’s nothing else it can be, because it shoots out the side, and they have these huge, wide tail flukes. It’s a pretty spectacular thing to see.”

A group went out June 4 looking specifically for the sperm whales and found them near San Clemente, Trowbridge said.

Eric Martin, aquarist director at Roundhouse Aquarium, saw Papaya on Saturday near Redondo Canyon after using an underwater device called a hydrophone to listen for the rhythmic clicking of the whales’ echolocation. Martin said Papaya was asleep at the water’s surface at the time.

It’s hard to know how long the whales will stay in the area, Trowbridge said: “As long as there’s food, they might continue to stick around.”

Sperm whales can be hard to spot. They usually are found in deep water and can stay submerged for up to 90 minutes, which helps them hunt for squid and other food. Anderson said the first time he saw one, it stayed below the surface for 36 minutes.

“It’s really easy to pass through an area where one might be and never even know that it was there,” Trowbridge said.

Newport Coastal Adventure has been tracking the whales using a hydrophone, she said, and has heard them from seven to eight miles away.

Sperm whales get their name from a semi-liquid, waxy substance, sperma-

ceti, in their heads that helps the animals focus sound, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The substance was long in demand for use as lubrication and lamp fuel. There once may have been as many as 11 million sperm whales, but hunting depleted the population to about 300,000, according to the National Wildlife Federation.

Caitlyn Nieblas, a deckhand and photographer for Capt. Dave’s Dolphin & Whale Watching Safari, was thrilled when she heard that one of the boats had spotted the whales.

“We, like all the crews, started jumping up and down and getting really excited, because it’s been so long since we’ve seen them. We kind of thought we would just never see them here,” she said. “It was a really big deal for all of us.”

Trowbridge said a sperm whale sighting is always special.

“It’s extremely exciting, just because they are hard to see, hard to find and they’re sort of this legendary animal that has a lot of cultural significance to a lot of people around the world — and also somewhat mythical in that, obviously, ‘Moby-Dick’ was inspired by a sperm whale,” she said. “And so it’s kind of like seeing a unicorn almost. It’s a really, really cool animal.”

2 clinics targeted by man’s threats

[Threats, from B1] You got it? You’re overdue for an attack.”

Vandebona was taken into federal custody after his plea hearing Monday, and is facing a maximum sentence of up to six years on two federal charges.

He was convicted on a misdemeanor count of threatened forcible intimidation of a reproductive health services facility under the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act and one felony count of transmitting threatening communications, Justice Department officials said.

His sentencing hearing will be Oct. 2.

Vandebona also pleaded guilty to a bomb threat he made in February 2022 against a Ventura-based anti-immigrant organization, Californians for Population Stabilization, the press release said.

Vandebona admitted he used anonymous numbers he acquired online to call the CAPS office, threatening to kill staff and plant a bomb there.

Obituaries

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Phyllis Levine

November 17, 1934 - May 31, 2023

On May 31, 2023 Phyllis Levine passed away gently and peacefully, while surrounded by her husband and children, each who loved her unconditionally throughout their lives.

She was born Phyllis Wasserman in Los Angeles, attending Marshall High and then CSUN college where she received multiple degrees, and later also had the pleasure of graduating on the same day as one of her sons.

As a young girl, she worked at her family’s juice bar business and then as a secretary for an insurance company. It was at age 17, she first met husband to be “Buck”. They were married in 1955. They were always in love, for all 68 years of their marriage.

She was an accomplished person, always striving to polish herself, and at the same time guiding her family to live successful lives. She didn’t want to leave anything out. She was a great party giver, tennis player, traveler, linguist and friend to many. Her three children Jeff Levine, Glenn Levine, and Hilary Fischer, with their respective spouses and children, all were extremely close to her and happily for her, also close to one another. Everyone will miss her always.

Lee Swartz

December 14, 1927 - June 3, 2023

Leatrice “Lee” Swartz passed June 3rd at the age of 95. She moved to California with her parents Theodore & Rosalind Weiss where she attended Dorsey High and UCLA and met “Gene”, her husband and best friend for 64 years. They were partners in everything. She played an integral part in all business and stood by “her man” through thick and thin. She was a strong, competent, determined and classy woman. She made things look easy, even though life was not always a picnic.

Lee was a dedicated wife to Gene, loving mother to Steve & Debbi and Chloe (her puppy), an awesome mother-in-law to Terrah, Lewis and Robert; a cool grandmother to Donald and Devin and a doting niece for her 2nd mom “Aunt Adelaide” who she said, “made her life very exciting”.

Lee cared about Democracy and loved to shop, read, travel, watch movies and play cards. She will be loved and missed by all who knew her! In lieu of flowers, please donate to Planned Parenthood or the charity of your choice.

A Private Service will be held at Mount Sinai on June 16th. Lee’s Celebration of Life will be held at Palm Court Culver City on June 17 at 11:30am.



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Los Angeles Times

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Lee Anne Mitchel

July 12, 1963 - May 4, 2023

Lee Anne Mitchel (Larrabee), a resident of Santa Clara, Utah, passed away suddenly on May 4, 2023. Lee Anne was born on July 12, 1963, in Boston, Ma. to Nancy Wayte (Kelly) and William Larrabee IV.

Lee Anne was raised in Southern California and was never too far from the beach. After graduating from San Marino High School, she attended the University of California, Davis where she graduated in 1985 achieving a Bachelor of Arts in Economics.

After college, Lee Anne obtained her Legal Assistant certification from UCLA and began a brief but satisfying career as a paralegal, before she found her true calling; being a mother to her sons Patrick and Glen. The family resided in Manhattan Beach where Lee Anne could be found volunteering as team mom for the boys’ sport teams, in the classroom helping on a project, or planning a birthday party for one of the boys and their friends. Lee Anne was a dedicated and loving mother who treasured her family and embraced every moment with them. Lee Anne’s boundless energy, intelligence, enthusiasm, and smile lit up a classroom, dinner party, or a dog park run. She spent countless hours enjoying her dogs; Remington, Darth, and Gabriel.

Lee Anne loved the outdoors; She was an enthusiastic skier, enjoying many family ski trips to Mammoth, Tahoe, and Colorado. Lee Anne was also a long-time member of the Beach Club in Santa Monica and passed along her love for the sun, sand, and ocean to her boys there and by the pier in Manhattan Beach.

In 2020, she packed up and left the South Bay for St. George, Utah where she enjoyed the outdoors and beauty that God provided.

Lee Anne is survived by her two sons, Patrick and Glen Mitchel. Her sister and Brother-in-law; Mary Beth and John Leonard. Her Father and Stepmother Bill and Bonnie Larrabee; numerous nieces and nephews, and even a grandniece. Services are pending and a celebration of life has been planned on her birthday. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the American Heart Association Go Red for Women Project.



Warren M.

Miyashiro

Warren M. Miyashiro was born in Kaieka, Big Island on 4/27/1929. 7th of 10 children. Graduated from McKinley HS in 1947. Married Helen in 1954. Raised 6 children. Master Composter at OVF. Died 5/26 at home. Predeceased by daughter Joan. Funeral Mass on 6/17 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 9am. Reception at 11am. Aloha attire requested.

Betty Nortman

Mount Sinai Mem Parks
H. Hills 800-600-0076
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Today in Southern California

Clouds and some sun: A series of short waves will move across Southern California for the next couple of days. This will continue the pattern of morning low clouds that will struggle to clear during the course of the day. Even where there is sunshine, temperatures will remain below average. Thunderstorms could occur in a few spots this afternoon, mainly in the northern Ventura County mountains.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin	Valleys	Beaches	Mountains	Deserts
Today	72 59	75 58	68 60	66 37	94 69
	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Low clouds, then sun	A shower or two	Breezy in the p.m.
Thursday	Clouds to sun	Mostly sunny	Afternoon sun	A shower	Breezy
Friday	Mostly cloudy	Warmer	Mostly cloudy	T-showers	Some sun
Saturday	Clouds, sun	Some sun	Clouds, sun	Partly sunny	Sunny
Sunday	Partly sunny	Clouds, sun	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Windy

Air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO
Inner waters: Wind northwest 10-15 knots. Wind waves around 2 feet or less. Mixed swell west 2-3 feet at 5 seconds and south 2 feet at 13 seconds.

Surf zone: The risk of strong rip currents is low at Santa Barbara County beaches and moderate at all other area beaches today.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	10 sec	W	61
Ventura	2-4'	12 sec	SW	61
Los Angeles	2-4'	13 sec	SW	64
Orange	2-4'	13 sec	SW	64
San Diego	2-4'	13 sec	SW	65

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.				
Today	8:04a	3.5 Hi	1:57a	0.0 Lo
	7:27p	6.1 Hi	12:58p	1.6 Lo
Thu.	9:03a	3.6 Hi	2:42a	-0.4 Lo
	8:02p	6.3 Hi	1:38p	2.0 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people
Las Vegas, 10
Los Angeles, 10
Phoenix, 10
San Francisco, 25

California cities

City	Tuesday	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today	Hi	Lo	Thursday	Hi	Lo
Anaheim	75	62	--		74	62	74	62		
Avalon/Catalina	59	54	--		59	54	62	55		
Bakersfield	86	62	--		91	69	91	68		
Barstow	92	61	--		94	68	94	70		
Big Bear Lake	67	40	--		66	37	68	41		
Bishop	84	50	.01		87	57	84	55		
Burbank	72	59	--		74	58	72	58		
Cambridge	71	55	--		72	60	72	60		
Chatsworth	75	56	--		75	58	71	57		
Chino	75	58	--		78	60	76	60		
Compton	70	59	--		73	62	73	61		
Dana Point	67	61	--		69	61	70	61		
Death Valley	xx	xx	xx		103	93	101	91		
Del Mar	68	60	--		64	61	66	63		
Escondido	73	61	--		72	58	75	58		
Eureka	60	52	--		60	48	61	49		
Fallbrook	74	61	--		72	58	74	60		
Fresno	87	62	--		92	66	92	67		
Fullerton	73	62	--		75	62	74	63		
Hemet	78	55	--		78	55	80	57		
Hesperia	84	55	--		85	55	85	56		
Huntington Beach	72	59	--		70	61	70	63		
Idyllwild	72	41	--		69	52	70	56		
Irvine	72	59	--		73	62	74	61		

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set			
Los Angeles Co.	5:41a/8:06p	Orange Co.	5:40a/8:04p
Moon	3:07a/5:04p	Ventura Co.	5:45a/8:10p
			3:11a/5:09p



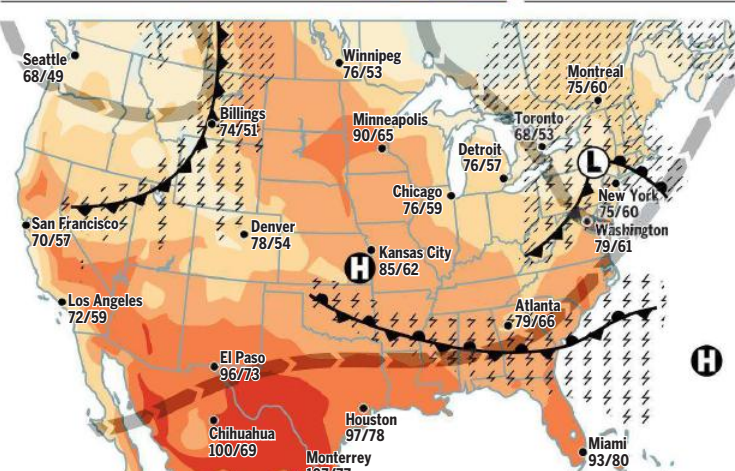
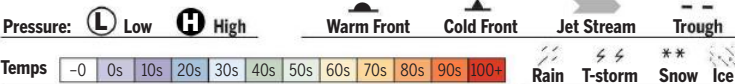
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Tuesday Downtown readings			
Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	71/62	73/62	67/56
Normal high/low	77/61	78/62	71/55
High/low a year ago	77/64	79/64	71/61
Record high/date	99/1896	90/2007	81/1972
Record low/date	46/1894	57/2017	46/1952

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	28.03	21.35	26.61
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	12.16	6.46	11.34
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	14.08	11.66	15.89
Humidity (high/low)	83/58	86/54	86/60

Today in North America

More storms in Western mountains: Thunderstorms extending from the southern Plains to the Southeast may unleash damaging wind and hail. Storms will occur once again over parts of the Rockies and Sierra Nevada. Showers will spread from the Great Lakes to the East Coast.



U.S. cities

TUESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 110 in Zapata, Texas
Low 27 in Angel Fire, N.M.

City	Tuesday	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today	Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	76	60	.34		74	58	R	
Albuquerque	83	53	--		87	59	Su	
Anchorage	54	43	.23		60	46	Cy	
Aspen	63	35	--		67	43	Sh	
Austin	79	63	--		79	66	Ts	
Baltimore	94	77	--		97	75	Pc	
Boise	87	61	--		74	47	Pc	
Boston	70	60	.20		74	59	Ts	
Buffalo	68	52	.02		63	55	R	
Burlington, Vt.	69	64	.85		74	59	Sh	
Charleston, S.C.	89	71	Tr		85	69	Ts	
Charlotte	81	61	--		84	62	Ts	
Chicago	65	55	.48		76	59	Pc	
Cincinnati	76	50	.03		75	59	Pc	
Cleveland	66	49	.16		71	55	Pc	
Columbia, S.C.	86	64	Tr		83	65	Ts	
Columbus	68	48	.55		74	54	Pc	
Dallas/Ft.Worth	79	69	.64		88	72	Pc	
Denver	65	49	.07		78	54	Ts	
Detroit	72	48	.11		76	57	Pc	
El Paso	95	64	--		96	73	Su	
Eugene	83	55	--		73	45	Pc	
Fort Myers	92	79	Tr		93	79	Ts	
Hartford	81	67	.03		78	59	Ts	
Honolulu	85	74	.12		87	77	Sh	
Houston	94	74	--		97	78	Pc	
Indianapolis	70	52	.06		92	75	Ts	
Jacksonville, Fla.	96	74	.09		92	75	Ts	
Kansas City	80	50	--		85	62	Su	
Knoxville	78	57	--		81	63	Ts	
Las Vegas	92	68	--		95	77	Su	
Louisville	81	55	--		82	65	Pc	
Medford	87	65	--		80	48	Pc	
Memphis	82	64	.03		83	69	Ts	
Miami	92	78	--		93	80	Ts	
Milwaukee	62	57	.83		71	60	Pc	
Minneapolis	88	59	--		90	65	Pc	
Nashville	80	54	--		84	64	Ts	
New Orleans	94	76	--		94	80	Pc	
New York	78	64	.09		75	60	Ts	
Norfolk	78	69	--		87	68	Pc	
Oklahoma City	80	61	Tr		82	63	Pc	
Omaha	86	61	--		89	63	Su	
Orlando	95	74	--		95	75	Ts	
Philadelphia	79	59	--		78	61	Ts	
Phoenix	96	74	--		99	75	Su	
Pittsburgh	69	50	.17		70	49	Cy	
Portland, Ore.	76	58	--		70	52	Pc	
Providence	73	61	.07		77	57	Ts	
Raleigh/Durham	87	61	--		88	63	Pc	
Reno	78	55	.13		84	56	Su	
Richmond	82	57	--		85	61	Pc	
St. Louis	84	60	--		87	67	Pc	
Salt Lake City	79	61	--		77	57	Cy	

City	Tuesday	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today	Hi	Lo	Sky
Seattle	64	55	--		68	49	Cy	
Tampa	92	79	--		93	81	Pc	
Tucson	93	63	--		99	66	Su	
Tulsa	85	64	.01		85	64	Ts	
Washington, D.C.	81	61	--		79	61	Pc	
Wichita	82	59	--		78	59	Ts	

World	Tuesday	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today	Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	92	77	--		91	76	Su	
Amsterdam	80	63	--		79	60	Pc	
Athens	81	70	.05		81	68	Su	
Bangkok	93	83	.08		92	81	Ts	
Barcelona	77	70	.07		77	67	Ts	
Berlin	76	55	--		73	56	Ts	
Cabo San Lucas	90	72	--		89	72	Su	
Cairo	97	77	--		93	72	Su	
Dubai	106	90	--		102	86	Su	
Dublin	75	61	.18		69	49	Su	
Havana	91	72	--		93	73	Su	
Ho Chi Minh City	10	76	.23		95	79	Ts	
Hong Kong	92	82	.53		86	78	R	
Istanbul	73	64	--		78	65	Sh	
Jerusalem	77	62	.11		81	62	Su	
Johannesburg	58	36	--		64	44	Su	
Kuala Lumpur	92	77	.24		93	75	Ts	
Lima	73	68	--		73	66	Pc	
London	82	59	--		84	55	Su	
Madrid	76	59	.27		83	59	Pc	
Mecca	110	84	--		112	89	Pc	
Mexico City	90	57	--		89	60	Su	
Montreal	68	61	.20		75	60	Sh	
Moscow	72	46	--		75	53	Su	
Mumbai	93	84	.17		91	83	Ts	
New Delhi	106	90	--		106	84	Hx	
Paris	88	61	--		86	58	Su	
Prague	72	45	.03		69	49	Ts	
Rome	77	64	.43		75	64	Ts	
Seoul	77	64	.02		81	62	Ts	
Singapore	88	77	.06		87	79	Ts	
Taipei City	86	73	--		86	73	R	
Tokyo	84	70	.08		77	70	Sh	
Vancouver	66	57	.02		65	51	Su	
Vienna	73	48	--		71	51	Pc	

Key: Su sunny; Pc partly cloudy; Cy cloudy; Fg foggy; Prcp precipitation; Dr drizzle; Hx hazy; Sh showers; Ts thunderstorms; R rain; Sn snow; Sf snow flurries; I ice; Rs rain/snow; W windy; Tr trace. Notes: International extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Tuesday's readings as of 5 p.m.

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DAVID PERALTA connects for a two-run home run in the first inning to put the Dodgers out in front. Two batters later, Will Smith hit another two-run blast to help L.A. start its six-game homestand on the right foot.

Gonsolin throws gem in victory

[Dodgers, from B10]
Gonsolin, who missed the first four weeks of the season because of a left ankle sprain, improved to 4-1 with a 1.93 earned-run average in nine starts, but his stuff has not seemed as crisp as it was during his breakout season in 2022, when he went 16-1 with a 2.14 ERA in 24 starts and made his first All-Star team.
The average velocity of Gonsolin's four-seamer has dropped in each of the last four seasons, from 95.1 mph in 2020 to 93.8 mph in 2021 to 93.1 mph in 2022 and 92.5 mph this year entering Tuesday.
Even more concerning for the Dodgers is that Gonsolin has had trouble maintaining his velocity from inning to inning in some starts.
"When he came back, when the governor was on [and he was limited to] three innings, four innings, five innings, I just saw a little bit

more consistent velocity, whereas in the last couple, I think he tried to hold back some," manager Dave Roberts said before the game.
"When Tony is at his best, it's 93 to 95 mph every pitch."
Gonsolin wasn't in that range Tuesday night, his fastball averaging just 91.1 mph, but his velocity ticked up as the game went on. After averaging 90.2 mph in the first two innings, Gonsolin touched 91.9 mph in the third and 93.5 mph in the fifth.
"It's interesting because he says as the game keeps going, he feels stronger, and the velocity speaks to that," Roberts said. "And the secondary [stuff] still had teeth to it. Even with the 90-mph fastball at times in the first three innings, they were still late on it because he was sequencing so well."
Gonsolin, who will make his next start Sunday on regular rest, had some margin for error. An offense that leads the major leagues with

115 home runs gave him a four-run cushion when hit Smith and David Peralta hit two-run homers off White Sox starter Lance Lynn in the first inning.
Freddie Freeman walked with one out, and Smith got his bobbiehead night off to a rollicking start by hitting his 1

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Arizona	41	26	.612	—	7-3
DODGERS	38	29	.567	3	4-6
San Francisco	35	32	.522	6	7-3
San Diego	32	34	.485	8½	6-4
Colorado	29	40	.420	13	4-6
Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Pittsburgh	34	31	.523	—	6-4
Milwaukee	34	33	.507	1	4-6
Cincinnati	33	35	.485	2½	7-3
Chicago	29	37	.439	5½	4-6
St. Louis	27	41	.397	8½	2-8
East	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Atlanta	40	26	.606	—	7-3
Miami	37	31	.544	4	7-3
Philadelphia	33	34	.493	7½	8-2
New York	31	36	.463	9½	1-9
Washington	26	39	.400	13½	3-7

Tuesday's results

at DODGERS 5, Chicago White Sox 1
New York Yankees 7, at New York 6
at Minnesota 7, Milwaukee 5
Colorado 7, at Boston 6, 10 innings
Cincinnati 5, at Kansas City 4
at Houston 6, Washington 1
at Chicago 11, Pittsburgh 3
San Francisco 11, at St. Louis 3
at San Diego 6, Cleveland 3
Philadelphia 15, at Arizona 3
at Seattle 9, Miami 3
Atlanta at Detroit, rain

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	41	25	.621	—	5-5
Houston	38	29	.567	3½	4-6
ANGELS	38	31	.551	4½	8-2
Seattle	33	33	.500	8	4-6
Oakland	19	50	.275	23½	7-3
Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Minnesota	34	33	.507	—	4-6
Cleveland	31	35	.470	2½	6-4
Chicago	29	39	.426	5½	6-4
Detroit	27	37	.422	5½	1-9
Kansas City	18	49	.269	16	1-9
East	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Tampa Bay	48	22	.686	—	7-3
Baltimore	42	24	.636	4	7-3
New York	39	29	.574	8	5-5
Toronto	37	31	.544	10	6-4
Boston	33	35	.485	14	3-7

Tuesday's results

ANGELS 7, at Texas 3
at DODGERS 5, Chicago 1
at Baltimore 11, Toronto 6
New York 7, at New York Mets 6
at Minnesota 7, Milwaukee 5
Colorado 7, at Boston 6, 10 innings
Cincinnati 5, at Kansas City 4
at Houston 6, Washington 1
at San Diego 6, Cleveland 3
at Oakland 2, Tampa Bay 1
at Seattle 9, Miami 3
Atlanta at Detroit, rain

TODAY'S GAMES

INTERLEAGUE >>>	W-L	ERA	TIME
CHI (AL)/Cleveland (R)	3-4	4.19	7 p.m.
Dodgers/Kershaw (L)	8-4	2.95	ESPN
MIL/Rea (R)	3-3	4.47	10 a.m.
MIN/Ober (R)	3-3	2.61	
ATL/Strider (R)	6-2	3.79	10 a.m.
DET/Olson (R)	0-1	2.70	
ATL/Smith-Shwver (R)	0-0	0.00	1:30 p.m.
DET/Lrea (R)	2-3	3.75	
WAS/Gray (R)	4-5	3.00	5 p.m.
HOU/Valdez (L)	6-5	2.36	
CLE/Civale (R)	2-1	2.31	6:30 p.m.
SD/Wacha (R)	6-2	3.18	
SEA/Perez (R)	3-1	2.17	6:30 p.m.
MIA/Castillo (R)	4-4	2.70	

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
Angels/Detmers (L)	1-5	4.75	5 p.m.
TEX/Heaney (L)	4-4	4.14	BSW
TOR/Berrios (R)	6-4	3.61	4 p.m.
BAL/Bradish (R)	2-2	4.25	
TB/Glasnow (R)	1-0	2.87	6:30 p.m.
OAK/Medina (R)	1-5	7.53	

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
SF/DeSclafani (R)	4-6	3.89	10:15 a.m.
STL/Montgomery (L)	3-7	3.88	MLB
PIT/Hill (L)	6-5	4.23	5 p.m.
CHI/Smyly (L)	5-4	3.27	
PHI/Suárez (L)	1-2	4.70	6:30 p.m.
ARI/Kelly (R)	8-3	2.92	

LA	SD	DODGERS	5
LA	SD	WHITE SOX	1
Streak	Won 1	This month	4-6
Home	21-10	Road	17-19
Division	12-7	Interleague	5-5
Next: Tonight vs. Chi. White Sox, Dodger Stadium, 7			
TV/Radio: ESPN/570, 1020			

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Anderson ss	3	0	0	0	.259	Betts ss-rf	4	0	1	0	.263
Benintendi lf	3	0	0	0	.259	Freeman 1b	3	1	0	0	.335
Robert Jr. cf	3	0	0	0	.261	Smith c	4	1	1	2	.290
Vaughn 1b	4	1	2	0	.248	Heyward rf	3	2	2	0	.244
Moncada 3b	4	0	1	0	.232	c-DeLuca lf	1	0	1	0	.250
Burger dh	3	0	0	0	.245	Martinez dh	3	0	0	0	.265
Grandal c	3	0	1	0	.258	Peralta lf	2	1	1	2	.265
Sheets rf	2	0	0	0	.225	a-Rojas ss	2	0	0	0	.209
b-Frazier rf	2	0	0	0	.222	Vargas 2b	3	0	1	1	.227
R.González 2b	3	0	0	0	.194	Outman cf	3	0	0	0	.229
Totals	31	1	3	1		Taylor 3b	3	1	0	0	.208
						Totals	31	5	8	5	

Chicago	000	000	001	—	3	1
Dodgers	400	001	00x	—	8	1

a-pinch hit for Peralta in the 6th. b-struck out for Sheets in the 7th. c-singled for Heyward in the 7th.

Walks—Chicago 2; Anderson 1, Robert Jr. 1. Los Angeles 2; Freeman 1, Martinez 1.

Strikeouts—Chicago 10; Benintendi 2, Robert Jr. 1, Vaughn 1, Burger 2, Sheets 1, Frazer 1, R.González 2. Los Angeles 10; Betts 1, Freeman 2, Smith 2, Martinez 2, Durman 3.

E—Moncada (3), Betts (2). **LOB**—Chicago 7. Los Angeles 5. **2B**—Vaughn (19), Betts (15). **HR**—Smith (10), off Lynn; Peralta (4), off Lynn. **RBIs**—Grandal (18), Smith 2 (35), Peralta 2 (25), Vargas (29). **SB**—Robert Jr. (4). **SF**—Grandal, Vargas.

Runners left in scoring position—Chicago 2 (Vaughn, Grandal); Los Angeles 1 (Taylor). **RISP**—Chicago 0 for 4; Los Angeles 1 for 6. **Chicago** **IP** **H** **R** **ER** **BB** **SO** **NP** **ERA**
Lynn 1-4 7 10 2 0 0 1 105 6.75
Crocket 2 2 0 0 0 3 35 3.60
Banks 1 0 0 0 0 1 11 3.00
Los Angeles **IP** **H** **R** **ER** **BB** **SO** **NP** **ERA**
Gonsolin, W, 4-1..... 6 2 0 0 2 6 90 1.93
Ferguson 1 0 0 0 0 2 12 3.75
Phillips 1 0 0 0 0 1 17 2.55
Scott 1 1 1 0 0 1 11 5.79
Graterol 1 0 0 0 0 0 4 1.91

Inherited runners-scored—Crocket 2-1, Graterol 2-1. **HBP**—Gonsolin (Burger). **WP**—Lynn, Gonsolin.
U—Brian O’Nora, Pat Hoberg, Jacob Metz, Nestor Ceja. **T**—2:28. **Tickets sold**—45,561 (56,000).

LA	NY	YANKEES	7
LA	NY	METS	6

Clayton Kershaw pitched out of a bases-loaded jam during the eighth inning, and the Yankees stormed back from four runs down against Max Scherzer to defeat the skidding Mets.

N.Y. (A)	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	N.Y. (N)	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Baers cf	3	0	1	2	.224	Nimmo cf	4	2	2	1	.286
a-Driscoll	0	0	0	0	.143	Álvarez c	4	1	0	0	.236
Cabrera rf	1	0	0	0	.195	1-Escobar	0	0	0	0	.240
Stanton dh	4	1	1	2	.234	Narvéz c	0	0	0	0	.240
Torres 2b	5	0	1	0	.252	McNeil lf	4	0	2	2	.278
Rizzo 1b	4	1	1	2	.269	Ulinor ss	3	0	0	0	.213
b-Mahú 3b	4	1	1	2	.236	Marte rf	5	1	1	0	.257
K-Faleia dh	4	1	1	0	.263	Baty 3b	4	1	2	1	.235
McKinly if	4	1	0	0	.286	Pham dh	5	0	0	0	.235
Higashika c	4	1	2	0	.240	Gulimbe 2b	5	0	1	1	.225
Volpe ss	4	1	2	1	.191	Canha 1b	3	1	1	1	.247
Totals	37	7	11	7		Totals	37	6	9	6	

New York (A)	100	501	000	—	7	11	1
New York (N)	221	010	000	—	6	9	0

a-sacrificed for Bauers in the 6th. 1-ran for Álvarez in the 8th.

Walks—New York (N) 5; Álvarez 1, Lindor 2, Baty 1, Canha 1.

Strikeouts—New York (A) 9; Bauers 1, Cabrera 1, Stanton 1, Rizzo 2, LeMahieu 1, McKinney 2, Higashika 1. New York (N) 8; Nimmo 1, Álvarez 1, Lindor 1, Marte 2, Pham 3. **E**—Torres (7). **LOB**—New York (A) 6, New York (N) 11. **2B**—Volpe 2 (7), Canha (13). **HR**—Stanton (6), off Scherzer; LeMahieu (7), off Scherzer; Nimmo (6), off Severino. **RBIs**—Stanton (13), LeMahieu 2 (23), Volpe (27), Stanton 2 (13), Donaldson (7), Nimmo (27), Baty (18), McNeil 2 (20), Canha (22), Gullimbe (5). **SB**—Marte (19). **SF**—Donaldson.

Severino.....	4½	7	6	5	3	4	104	6.83
Marinaccio, W, 3-3.....	1	0	0	0	1	0	21	3.45
Cordero, H, 6-3.....	1	0	0	0	1	1	5	3.00
Kahlele, H, 2-1.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.00
Perrata, H, 8-3.....	1	0	0	0	1	0	11	2.63
Holmes, H, 4-4.....	1	0	0	0	2	1	18	4.48
King, S, 4-6.....	1	0	0	0	1	1	9	2.19
New York (N)	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Scherzer.....	3½	7	6	6	0	2	76	4.45
Leone.....	1½	0	0	0	2	1	19	4.50
Walker, R, 0-1.....	½	2	1	1	1	1	18	3.38
Brighton.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	7.75
Smith.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.18
Curtiss.....	2	1	0	0	0	2	22	4.20
Robertson.....	1	1	0	0	2	10	1.84	

T—3:19. **Tickets sold**—43,707 (42,136).

LA	NY	REDS	5
LA	NY	ROYALS	4

Cincinnati batted through the lineup during a five-run second, and Brandon Williamson did just enough to earn his first big league win, sending Kansas City to its eighth consecutive defeat.

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Friedl cf	3	0	2	1	.321	Pratto 1b	4	1	1	0	.281
McLain dh	3	0	0	0	.322	Perez c	4	1	1	0	.275
India 2b	3	0	0	0	.274	Witt Jr. ss	4	1	1	2	.277
DL-Cruz ss	3	1	0	0	.267	Melendez rf	3	1	1	1	.217
Steer 1b	4	1	0	1	.278	Garcia 3b	4	0	1	0	.254
Sphsn c	4	1	0	0	.249	Oliveras dh	4	1	1	0	.246
Benson rf	2	1	0	0	.227	Duffy 2b	2	0	1	1	.312
b-Hopkins rf	1	0	0	0	.158	a-Massey 2b	1	0	0	0	.221
Newman 3b	4	1	1	0	.270	Waters cf	3	0	0	0	.182
Farfchild lf	3	1	1	2	.232	Blanco if	3	0	2	3	.253
Totals	30	5	4	8		Totals	32	4	8	4	

Cincinnati	050	000	000	—	5	1
Kansas City	112	000	000	—	4	8

a-walked for Duffy in the 7th. b-flied out for Benson in the 9th.

Walks—Cincinnati 5; Friedl 1, McLain 1, India 1, De La Cruz 1, Benson 1. Kansas City 2; Massey 1, Blanco 1. **Strikeouts**—Cincinnati 5; McLain 2, De La Cruz 2, Steer 1, Kansas City 5; Pratto 1, Perez 1, Witt Jr. 1, Waters 1, Blanco 1. **E**—Williamson (2), Duffy (6). **LOB**—Cincinnati 3, Kansas City 5. **2B**—Newman (11), Oliveras (10), Duffy (4). **HR**—Witt Jr. (11), off Williamson. **RBIs**—Steer (36), Newman (24), Farfchild (21), Friedl (22), Melendez (26), Duffy (8), Witt Jr. 2 (20). **SB**—Friedl (7), Farfchild (8). **CS**—Witt Jr. (6). **SF**—Melendez. **Runners left in scoring position**—Cincinnati 2 (De La Cruz 2); Kansas City 3 (Perez 2, Blanco). **DP**—Cincinnati 2 (De La Cruz, India; Steer, India, De La Cruz, Steer); Kansas City 2 (Garcia, Duffy, Pratto; Witt Jr., Massey, Pratto).

Duffy, Pratto; Witt Jr, Massey, Pratto).								
Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Williamson, W, 1-0.....	5	7	4	3	0	1	78	5.40
Duarte, H, 1-1.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.00
Gibaut, H, 6-3.....	1	0	0	0	2	0	20	3.06
Sims, H, 8-3.....	1½	1	0	0	0	3	24	3.04
Diaz, S, 16-16.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	13	1.65
Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lykes, L, 0-11.....	6	5	5	5	3	4	94	6.89
Kowar.....	1	0	0	0	1	1	20	4.15

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Fourth woman accuses Bauer of sexual assault

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Former Dodgers pitcher **Trevor Bauer** is facing new allegations of sexual assault, this time from an Arizona woman who in a lawsuit accused him of choking her until she lost consciousness, raping her, impregnating her and holding a knife to her throat.

Bauer, whom the Dodgers released this offseason after he received the longest suspension administered under Major League Baseball's sexual assault and domestic abuse policy, denied the claims in a countersuit against the woman and accused her of fraud, extortion and fabricating her pregnancy. The litigation was first reported by USA Today.

According to the woman's lawsuit filed in Maricopa County Superior Court in December, she and Bauer had a relationship in late 2020. The lawsuit described several incidents in which Bauer is accused of choking her and forcibly grabbing her, one encounter in which he is accused of holding a jagged steak knife to her throat and another in which he is accused of raping her at an Arizona residence.

In his countersuit against the woman, Bauer denied assaulting or sexually assaulting the woman.

Bauer's countersuit claimed he and the woman had a "single, consensual sexual encounter" in December 2020 during which his condom broke during sex.

After that encounter, Bauer's countersuit says, the woman claimed she was pregnant and demanded \$1.6 million from the pitcher to terminate the pregnancy.

Bauer is facing no criminal charges stemming from the allegations.

The Arizona woman is the fourth to publicly accuse Bauer of sexual violence. The Cy Young Award-winning pitcher signed with a professional team in Japan this season after being released by the Dodgers in January.

— JACK HARRIS

ETC.

Lavolette hired as Rangers coach

The New York Rangers hired **Peter Lavolette** as their next coach, bringing in a seasoned veteran with Stanley Cup-winning experience to replace **Gerard Gallant**.

The team announced the selection of Lavolette, putting the U.S.-born leader in NHL coaching victories in charge at a time of great expectations, with the Original Six franchise firmly in win-now mode.

Lavolette replaces Gallant, who mutually parted ways with the Rangers after their first-round playoff exit.

A group led by Canadian businessman **Michael Andlauer** reached an agreement to buy the Ottawa Senators.

Venus Williams lost her first competitive singles match since injuring her hamstring in January, succumbing to 17-year-old **Celine Naef** 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2 at the Libema Open grass-court tournament in Den Bosch, Netherlands. ... **Nick Kyrgios** lost 7-5, 6-3 to **Wu Yibing** in the first round of the Stuttgart Open. ... **Beatriz Haddad Maia** was defeated by **Daria Snigur** 6-4, 6-3 in the first round of the Nottingham Open.

Buffalo Bills star receiver **Stefon Diggs** was not present for the start of the team's mandatory minicamp. ... All-Pro defensive tackle **Chris Jones**, who is entering the final year of his contract with the Kansas City Chiefs, was absent from the start of minicamp. ... The New York Jets signed former Green Bay Packers safety **Adrian Amos** to a one-year contract.

Distance runner **Faith Kipyegon** was given \$35,000 and a house by Kenyan President **William Ruto** as a reward for breaking two world records in the space of a week.



JOHN LOCHER Associated Press

MEMBERS of the Vegas Golden Knights, center, celebrate a goal by captain Mark Stone during the second period as members of the Panthers stand by in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Final. Stone had a hat trick.

Misfits to NHL champions

[Elliott, from B10]

The Golden Knights had reached the 2018 Cup Final in their first season but lost to the Washington Capitals in five games.

For the franchise fee of \$500 million paid by owner Bill Foley, they were given generous terms in that expansion draft, but they deserve credit for altering that roster as needed over the years. After missing the playoffs last season they fortified their numbers well enough to withstand extensive injuries, a strategy that paid off in the first championship in the franchise's six-season history. To reach the Final this season, Vegas defeated Winnipeg, Edmonton and Dallas.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman was booed, as always, when he presented the Cup to team captain Mark Stone, but he turned the jeers to cheers when he praised the team and the fans.

"Not only is Vegas a hockey town, it's a championship town," he said.

Vegas needed five goal-tenders to get through an injury-marred regular season and win the Pacific division. One of them was

STANLEY CUP FINAL

WC2 Florida vs. P1 Vegas

Golden Knights win series 4-1

Gm 1	Vegas 5, Florida 2
Gm 2	Vegas 7, Florida 2
Gm 3	Florida 3, Vegas 2 (OT)
Gm 4	Vegas 3, Florida 2
Gm 5	Vegas 9, Florida 3

Jonathan Quick. Martinez and Quick became three-time Cup champions nine years to the day when they won their second title with the Kings. During the celebration, Martinez passed the Cup to Quick.

Quick, traded by the Kings to Columbus and soon after flipped to Vegas, didn't play a minute in the playoffs because of the excellence of Adin Hill, who had been acquired from San Jose for a fourth-round draft pick last summer.

But Quick was the backup in the Final and shared the joy of this unexpected championship with his family, comforting his kids while they cried from happiness.

"It feels great. This feeling doesn't get old," he said.

Golden Knights 9, Panthers 3				
Florida	0	1	2	3
Vegas	2	4	3	9

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Vegas, Stone 9, 11:52 (sh). 2. Vegas, Hague 2 (Eichel, Marchessault), 13:41. **Penalties**—Ekblad, FLA (Interference), 7:53. Kolesar, V (Interference), 10:38.

SECOND PERIOD: 3. Fla., Ekblad 2 (Cousins), 2:15. 4. Vegas, Martinez 2 (Eichel, Pietrangelo), 10:28. 5. Vegas, Smith 4 (Karlsson, Theodore), 12:13. 6. Vegas, Stone 10 (Stephenson, Howden), 17:15. 7. Vegas, Amadio 5 (Smith), 19:58. **Penalties**—None.

THIRD PERIOD: 8. Vegas, Barbashev 7 (Eichel, Theodore), 8:22. 9. Fla., Reinhart 8 (Montour, Bennett), 8:47. 10. Fla., Bennett 5 (Reinhart, Forsling), 11:39. 11. Vegas, Stone 11, 14:06 (en). 12. Vegas, Roy 3 (Theodore, McNabb), 18:58. **Penalties**—None.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Fla. 8-6-19-33. Vegas 11-14-6-31. Power-play conversions—Fla. 0 of 1. Vegas 0 of 1.

GOALIES: Fla., Bobrovsky 12-6-0 (30 shots-22 saves). Vegas, Hill 11-4-0 (34-31). Att—19,058 (17,367). T—2:35.

"We've got guys doing it the first time, a couple guys doing it the second time and [Martinez] third, Phil [Kessel] third. It's just fun to be part of the group as a whole. You know how much hard work goes into it so you're happy for all these guys and their families."

A four-goal flurry in the second period Tuesday, which included goals by Martinez and former King Michael Amadio, put the game out of the reach of the scrappy but undermanned Panthers even before Stone completed a hat trick.

Panthers forward Matthew Tkachuk didn't play because of a fractured sternum, but even he might

not have made a difference against the determined Golden Knights.

Jonathan Marchessault, one of the original Misfits, won the Conn Smythe trophy as the most valuable player in the playoffs. He and four other original Golden Knights started the game, a classy gesture by coach Bruce Cassidy.

"It was cool," said former Duck Shea Theodore, another of those Misfits.

"It was definitely a special way to kick off the night."

At the end, streamers fell from the ceiling, fans roared, and the Golden Knights' victory song, "Viva Las Vegas," filled the arena. There will be parties and a parade sometime soon, but in the immediate aftermath of their victory, the Golden Knights could only marvel at what they'd done.

"This is one of the best feelings I'll ever have," Stone said.

"Four years ago when I got traded here [from Ottawa] this is all I could ask for, a championship, and now I'm standing here as a champion."

Misfits no more. Champions forever.

Here's what might happen after Wembanyama is drafted first

[Woike, from B10] Spurs would swap for straight up. Expectations are ridiculously high — matching Wembanyama's ridiculous physical tools.

2. Charlotte Hornets: Brandon Miller, 6-9, SF, Alabama

Regarded as college basketball's best prospect last season, Miller is a seamless fit for Charlotte and LaMelo Ball. Scoot Henderson could be an option, but Miller's all-around skills and size on the wing make him the choice.

3. Portland Trail Blazers: Scoot Henderson, 6-2, PG, G League Ignite

This is where things start to get interesting because there is no guarantee Portland will make this pick. The Trail Blazers have strongly signaled that they intend to compete now while Damian Lillard still is in his prime, meaning a trade could be in the works. There are questions about Henderson, shooting being chief among them, but he gets downhill and makes plays. Best case, he's the future face of a franchise.

4. Houston Rockets: Amen Thompson, 6-7, PG, Overtime Elite

Scouts have wondered how useful any Overtime Elite evaluations have been, but there's no questioning Thompson's size and athleticism. He sees the court well and can fire the ball to shooters, which is good because there are concerns about his shooting. The Rockets need an organizer.

5. Detroit Pistons: Jarace Walker, 6-7, PF, Houston

One of the big losers on lottery night, the Pistons made a big splash this offseason by hiring coach Monty Williams. Walker is one of the most physically impressive prospects in the

draft — a big, strong forward with a shooting touch that stretches to the perimeter.

6. Orlando Magic: Ausar Thompson, 6-7, SG, Overtime Elite

There's some belief that Thompson might be more NBA-ready than his twin brother, Amen, because of his superior shooting and defensive upside. The Magic could go in a ton of directions.

7. Indiana Pacers: Cam Whitmore, 6-6, SF, Villanova

Whitmore could be off the board by the time the Pacers pick because of his size and strength on the wing. He's a big-time competitor, but he will need to consistently make shots. One scout compared him to Justise Winslow in regard to the disconnect between his NBA-ready body and lack of proven skills.

8. Washington Wizards: Anthony Black, 6-6, PG, Arkansas

The Wizards flipped their front office this offseason, hiring Michael Winger from the Clippers. Black has great size at point guard and is a selfless player willing to defend. As teams rebuild their rosters, players like him are wildly valuable.

9. Utah Jazz: Cason Wallace, 6-4, PG, Kentucky

There are tons of options for the Jazz because their rebuild went much faster than expected after they dealt Donovan Mitchell and Rudy Gobert last summer. Wallace is a defensive ace with natural point guard skills.

10. Dallas Mavericks: Taylor Hendricks, 6-9, PF, Central Florida

Like Portland, signals are Dallas is open for business when it comes to this

pick because of its desire to help Luka Doncic win immediately. If the Mavericks don't deal it to help rebuild the depth they lost in the Kyrie Irving trade, Hendricks' 3-and-D potential might be as strong as anyone in the lottery.

11. Orlando Magic (via Chicago): Jalen Hood-Schifino, 6-6, PG, Indiana

Another pick that could be on the move because of Orlando's stock of young players. Hood-Schifino is a point guard with size who fits a lineup full of oversized players. Markelle Fultz is a free agent after next season, and Orlando could be looking for his replacement.

12. Oklahoma City Thunder: Grady Dick, 6-8, SG, Kansas

If there's a skill every team is on the hunt for, it's shooting, and Dick might be the best marksman in this draft — meaning he could be off the board before this pick. He's also got plus-size for the wing and would be another great piece for the surging Thunder.

13. Toronto Raptors: Keyonte George, 6-4, SG, Baylor

It's hard to know what direction the Raptors are headed in, maybe looking to reload instead of rebuild. George would fit either of those strategies, a scoring guard who can carry the perimeter attack for a team if he becomes a little more consistent.

14. New Orleans Pelicans: Dereck Lively II, 7-1, C, Duke

Great size and athleticism made Lively the top prospect heading into college this past season and after a slow start, he flashed the tools that modern NBA centers have: rim running and shot blocking. He shot the ball well at his pro day

and has helped his stock in the pre-draft process.

15. Atlanta Hawks: Bilal Coulibaly, 6-6, SF, France

Scouts came to France to watch Wembanyama and got the bonus of seeing Coulibaly blossom into one of the hottest names in the pre-draft process. He has had a good run of games as he and Wembanyama led Metropolitans 92 to the French league finals. He could sneak into the top 10.

16. Utah Jazz (via Minnesota): Leonard Miller, 6-10, SF, G League Ignite

The Jazz's stockpile of picks gives them the luxury to gamble a little. Miller is a big-time rebounder who showed some skill against pros this past year in the G League. He's got great size and can pass the ball, drawing Lamar Odom comparisons.

17. Lakers: Kobe Bufkin, 6-5, PG, Michigan

Another player who is moving up draft boards and could be among the lottery picks, Bufkin has the kind of two-way skills that might set him apart from other point guards in this draft. He has a lot of fans around the NBA.

18. Miami Heat: Nick Smith Jr., 6-5, PG-SG, Arkansas

One of the top-ranked players entering college last season, he struggled because of a knee injury. He's a gifted shooter and ballhandler, but there are questions about his ability to make teammates better.

19. Golden State Warriors: Jett Howard, 6-8, SG, Michigan

The son of former NBA player and Michigan coach Juwan Howard has plenty of size and can really move and shoot the ball. The big questions are on the defensive end, where he hasn't maxi-

mized the potential of his frame.

20. Houston Rockets (via Clippers): Jordan Hawkins, 6-5, SG, Connecticut

One of the biggest stars of the NCAA tournament, Hawkins is viewed as one-dimensional by some NBA talent evaluators. Luckily for him, that dimension is shooting, and everyone is willing to take on more floor spacing.

21. Brooklyn Nets: Dariq Whitehead, 6-7, SG-SF, Duke

Another part of Duke's heralded recruiting class that struggled to find footing as freshmen. Whitehead has NBA wing size and shooting, though there are concerns about an off-season foot injury.

22. Brooklyn Nets (via Clippers): Colby Jones, 6-6, SG, Xavier

Jones has strong all-around offensive skills and uses his body well to make up for average physical tools. There's two-way potential too.

23. Portland Trail Blazers (via New York): Kris Murray, 6-8, PF, Iowa

After his brother Keegan left Iowa to play for the Sacramento Kings, Murray showed that his game has similar offensive polish. If Portland keeps this pick and wants to find win-now rookies, Murray is near the top of that list.

24. Sacramento Kings: Jaime Jaquez Jr., 6-7, SF, UCLA

Jaquez really helped himself in the pre-draft process, evaluators have said. Teams value his versatility, maturity and resourcefulness. He's viewed as a player who could help contribute earlier than most.

25. Memphis Grizzlies: Brice Sensabaugh, 6-6, SF, Ohio State

The Grizzlies like their wings kind of beefy, and Sensabaugh is a big body who can get a bucket. He wasn't viewed as a one-and-done prospect, but he played himself into the first round.

26. Indiana Pacers (via Cleveland): Brandin Podziemski, 6-5, SC, Santa Clara

With Buddy Hield's future with the Pacers up in the air, Podziemski would fill the void because he really can shoot the ball. He's got big questions on defense.

27. Charlotte Hornets (via Denver): Maxwell Lewis, 6-7, SF, Pepperdine

Lewis has a real chance to be a 3-and-D wing, and the Hornets need as many reliable players as they can find. He's got good size and length and can be a complementary scorer.

28. Utah Jazz (via Philadelphia): Olivier-Maxence Prosper, 6-8, PF, Marquette

No one helped themselves more at the NBA combine than Prosper, who showed scouts his toughness and versatility while most top prospects declined to play live scrimmages.

29. Indiana Pacers (via Boston): G.G. Jackson, 6-9, PF, South Carolina

With three picks in the first round, the Pacers can take a swing on the draft's youngest player.

30. Clippers (via Milwaukee): Noah Clowney, 6-10, PF, Alabama

The Clippers could use this pick in a trade to shed salary, or they could take on a player like Clowney — a big with defensive versatility and the potential to stretch the floor as a shooter.

U.S. OPEN NOTEBOOK

Golfers asking why LIV merger occurred

By STEVE HENSON

The news was so jarring for professional golfers that they'll always remember where they were when they heard that the PGA Tour and LIV Golf had entered into a partnership agreement.

Jon Rahm said he was home in Arizona making breakfast with his wife, **Kelley**, and their two sons.

"Texts just started flowing in," he said. "I thought my phone was going to catch on fire at one point. ... I told Kelley, 'I'm just going to throw my phone in the drawer and not look at it for the next four hours because I can't deal with this anymore.'"

Brooks Koepka, a LIV golfer who took the PGA Championship a month ago for his fifth major win, headed for his home course in Jupiter, Fla., after learning of the merger.

"I ran into [PGA golfers] **Rickie [Fowler]** and **JT [Thomas]** after watching the whole thing and I asked if they knew, and they said they didn't know, either," he said. "They were kind of learning about it. They were on the back of the range, so I probably saw them 30 minutes after the news broke."

The merger June 6 shocked the golf world because few saw it coming. The



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ Associated Press

DESPITE THE MERGER, Jon Rahm appreciates the opportunities provided by the PGA Tour. Above, he plays a practice round at the L.A. Country Club.

two organizations, as well as the European Tour, agreed to combine the commercial businesses and rights of all three into a yet-to-be-named company. Pending litigation brought by the PGA and LIV ceased.

LIV Golf is backed by the Saudi Arabia Public Investment Fund — controlled by **Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** — triggering debate over the morality of PGA golfers taking enormous sums of money from a regime notorious for human-rights abuses.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, chairman of the cham-

ber's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, opened an investigation into the merger Monday. Details of the agreement haven't been determined or made public, and Tuesday at the Los Angeles Country Club, where practice rounds were played ahead of the U.S. Open, several prominent golfers weren't quite sure what to say about it.

"For a lot of different parties there are a lot of different reasons why it's happening," **Collin Morikawa** said. "So we all want to know the why. We're so interested in the why. ... Like, what's the

purpose behind it?"

When the merger was announced on social media, Morikawa dryly tweeted: "I love finding out morning news on Twitter."

The La Cañada Flintridge product said Tuesday he's tried not to think about it since, preferring to focus on preparing for the U.S. Open on a course he is familiar with playing.

"What you've seen from the players versus what you've seen from maybe our commissioner versus the [PGA policy] board ... versus LIV versus — there's a lot of parties involved," he said.

"Everyone has had a kind of different answer and different reaction to all this."

PGA veteran **Patrick Cantlay** grew up in Long Beach, went to UCLA and expects lots of family and friends to cheer him on this week. He also is a member of the PGA policy board and involved in the organization's decisions. Yet even he was taken by surprise by the merger.

"I've talked to a number of people, independents on the board, players on the board and I've talked to **Jay [Monahan]**, PGA commissioner," he said. "Right now it seems like it's still too early to have enough information to have a good handle on the situation."

Cantlay indicated that PGA players who turned down lucrative LIV offers might deserve compensation "in a perfect world." Cantlay sympathized with players such as Rahm, who said he felt a "betrayal from management."

"Anytime you're left in the dark on a decision that potentially affects you massively, that could easily make you upset," Cantlay said. "I don't want to get ahead of myself and form an opinion like that until I know all the facts. But I understand that emotion, and I think it's totally natural and understandable."

Rahm, No. 2 in the World

Golf Rankings, reportedly turned down as much as \$400 million to join LIV. But after watching his friend Koepka's success at recent majors while playing the less-demanding LIV schedule, he said he was beginning to waver.

Yet the merger occurred before he could cash in. If he has regrets, he didn't voice them Tuesday, in fact expressing a refreshing perspective.

"No matter what happens, whether I agree with it or not, thanks to the PGA Tour, they give me a platform to play golf at the highest level, and after taking advantage of that possibility, I'm in a situation where my family and my kids don't have to struggle financially ever," he said.

"I'm in a very high state of privilege in this world. I can do what I want. I can do what I love for a living."

Commissioner recovering

Monahan is recovering from a medical situation, the tour announced.

It did not disclose the nature of the situation or how serious it was, only that two of his executives would lead the tour's day-to-day operations.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



HARRY HOW Getty Images

ALEX YANG, who was raised in Newport Beach, hits a shot during a practice round ahead of the U.S. Open. Yang played Tuesday with fellow Stanford qualifiers Michael Thorbjornsen, Karl Vilips and Barelay Brown.

Cardinal foursome makes Open

[Stanford, from B10] cut. He missed the cut last year at the Country Club in Brookline, Mass., just east of his family home in neighboring Wellesley.

Vilips is from Perth, Australia, hence his nickname "Koala Karl," and he was ranked No. 1 in 2018 by the American Junior Golf Assn.

Brown, from South Yorkshire in England, made the cut at the British Open at St. Andrews last summer. He was four under par after the first round, and his 68 was three shots off the course's amateur record.

"I was terrified playing there," said Brown, who didn't show it. "Feeling a bit more comfortable this week. So that's already been nice, feeling that slight change. But it went really well for me there. I played great the first couple of days, was in good position, and then lost it a little bit at the weekend. Hopefully I find myself in a similar position this week."

Brown said he learned some things in his first major that he will be able to use in the U.S. Open.

"Some patience and positivity, I think," he said. "I was trying to force stuff to happen and getting a little bit down on myself when it didn't. The stakes are higher, but I'm just going to treat it like all of the other times that I played and stay patient, wait for the good

ROUND 1 TEE TIMES

THURSDAY

6:45 a.m. — Deon Germishuys, Berry Henson, Hank Lebioda, Omar Morales, Rytaro Nagano, Jacob Solomon
6:56 a.m. — Michael Brennan, Wenyi Ding, Ryan Gerard, Yuto Katsuragawa, Michael Kim, Jordan L. Smith
7:07 a.m. — Hayden Buckley, Lucas Herbert, Pablo Larrazabal, Scott Stallings, Preston Summerhays, Adam Svensson
7:18 a.m. — Ryan Armour, Jens Dantorp, Patrick Rodgers, Roger Sloan, Dylan Wu, Carson Young
7:29 a.m. — Ryo Ishikawa, Matthieu Pavin, Thomas Pieters, Gordon Sargent, Kevin Streelman, Aaron Wise
7:40 a.m. — Bryson DeChambeau, Tommy Fleetwood, Tyrrell Hatton, Shane Lowry, Francesco Molinari, Justin Thomas
7:51 a.m. — Sergio Garcia, Tom Hoge, Sungjae Im, Kyoung-Hoon Lee, J.T. Poston, Sepp Straka
8:02 a.m. — Corey Connors, Jason Day, Rickie Fowler, Justin Rose, Adam Scott, Gary Woodland
8:13 a.m. — Max Homa, Si Woo Kim, Matt Kuchar, Collin Morikawa, Patrick Reed, Scottie Scheffler
8:24 a.m. — Joel Dahmen, Adam Hadwin, Viktor Hovland, Denny McCarthy, Jon Rahm, Kander Schauffele
8:35 a.m. — Stewart Cink, Ryan Fox, Martin Kaymer, Matthew McClean, Seamus Power, Michael Thorbjornsen
8:46 a.m. — Paul Barge, Barclay Brown, Gunn Charoenakul, David Horsey, Mac Meissner, Brendan Valdes
8:57 a.m. — Bastien Amat, Jordan Gumborg, Kyle

Mueller, Jesse Schutte, Andrew Svoboda, Alexander Yang
12:15 p.m. — Nicolas Echazarrin, Ross Fisher, Brent Grant, Paul Haley, Charley Hoffman, Vincent Norrman
12:26 p.m. — Nick Dunlap, Simon Forsstrom, Nick Hardy, Maxwell Moldovan, Carlos Ortiz, Sam Stevens
12:37 p.m. — Eric Cole, Romain Langasque, Thriston Lawrence, Taylor Pendrith, Aldrich Potgieter, Adam Schenk
12:48 p.m. — Abraham Ancer, Alejandro Del Rey, Luke List, Wilco Nienaber, Victor Perez, Andrew Putnam
1:32 p.m. — Keegan Bradley, Harris English, Padraig Harrington, Adrian Meronj, Phil Mickelson, Joaquin Niemann
1:43 p.m. — Patrick Cantlay, Tony Finau, Brian Harman, Billy Horschel, Chris Kirk, Jordan Spieth
1:54 p.m. — Brooks Koepka, Min Woo Lee, Hideki Matsuyama, Rory McIlroy, Justin Suh, Davis Thompson
2:05 p.m. — Ben Carr, Mackenzie Hughes, Taylor Montgomery, Taylor Moore, Sebastian Munoz, Nick Taylor
2:16 p.m. — Olin Browne Jr., Frankie Capon, Patrick Coerver, David Nyffeler, David Puig, Karl Vilips
2:27 p.m. — Christian Cavalliere, J.J. Grey, Corey Pereira, Alex Schaake, Isaac Simmons, Austen Truflow

ment didn't hit him then.

"That was pretty relaxed," he said. "But it was more Monday's tee time, when I came out with another Cardinal, [PGA Tour pro] Patrick Rodgers. I came out to the range and wasn't really expecting much, and then it was just like people everywhere, they're announcing your name. That's when it really hit. I was like, 'Dang, this is really happening.'"

"You could definitely feel the nerves, even for a practice round."

Then again, he got a taste early in life of how big the U.S. Open really is. As a youngster, he was on hand to see Tiger Woods win the 2008 Open at Torrey Pines.

"I was 5, turning 6," he said. "I crawled under people and got to the front. They were happy to let me through. The crowds are usually pretty generous to young children."

Woods isn't playing in this year's Open after undergoing ankle surgery in April.

"Our entire generation looks up to Tiger," Yang said of the onetime Stanford star. "Everything he represented. Everything he was able to achieve in golf. I think that's something that we as kids looked up to. I wish he was out here this week, but I hope he gets healthy as well."

The tallest tree of all.

PRO CALENDAR

	WED 14	THU 15	FRI 16	SAT 17	SUN 18
DODGERS	CHICAGO WHITE SOX 7 ESPN	CHICAGO WHITE SOX 7 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 7 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 6 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 1 SNLA
ANGELS	at Texas 5 BSW	at Texas 5 BSW, FS1	at Kansas City 5 BSW	at Kansas City 1 BSW	at Kansas City 11 a.m. BSW
GALAXY	JUNE 21 VS. KANSAS CITY, 7:30, APPLE TV				
LAFC	HOUSTON 7:30 Apple TV			at Kansas City 5:30 Apple TV	
ANGEL CITY				at San Diego 1 Ch. 2	
SPARKS	at Dallas 10 a.m. NBA		MINNESOTA 7 lon		CONN. 4:30 SNLA

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASEBALL		
10:15 a.m.	San Francisco at St. Louis	TV: MLB
4 p.m.	New York Yankees at New York Mets	TV: ESPN, ESPND
4 p.m.	Congressional Game for Charity	TV: FS1
5 p.m.	Angels at Texas	TV: BSW R: 980
7 p.m.	Chicago White Sox at Dodgers	TV: ESPN, ESPND R: 570, 1020
HORSE RACING		
Noon	America's Day at the Races	TV: FS2
SOCCER		
11:45 a.m.	UEFA Nations League, Netherlands vs. Croatia	TV: FS1 R: 1330
4:30 p.m.	Friendly, Uruguay vs. Nicaragua	TV: FOXD
7:30 p.m.	MLS, Houston at LAFC	TV: Apple TV R: 980
TENNIS		
2 a.m. (Wed.)	ATP Stuttgart, ATP/WTA Hertogenbosch, WTA Nottingham tournaments, early rounds	TV: Tennis

By SAM FARMER

Jose Ochoa wanted to learn to play golf but didn't have the money for lessons.

That didn't dissuade the industrious young man. Ochoa spent hours on the driving range at Rancho Park, eavesdropping on others getting lessons and quietly taking notes.

"I taught myself to play, and I got pretty good," said Ochoa, 64, head locker room attendant at Los Angeles Country Club, a place he has worked since 1982. He plays only a couple of times a year these days, but at his peak he shot a 74 on the North Course, site of this week's U.S. Open.

Ochoa and his team of six other attendants work from daybreak until late at night, doing laundry, polishing golf shoes, providing Open competitors with whatever they

need — just as they do with LACC members during any other week.

Raised on a family farm near Guadalajara, Mexico, Ochoa has seven sisters and three brothers, one of whom, Juan, is a caddie at the club.

Like a bartender at a neighborhood joint, Ochoa is, as much as anything, a sounding board, psychologist and friend.

"I don't come to work here," he said. "I come here to have fun. This is nothing for me. I have a relationship with all the members and their families."

Essential to his job is his unshakable memory.

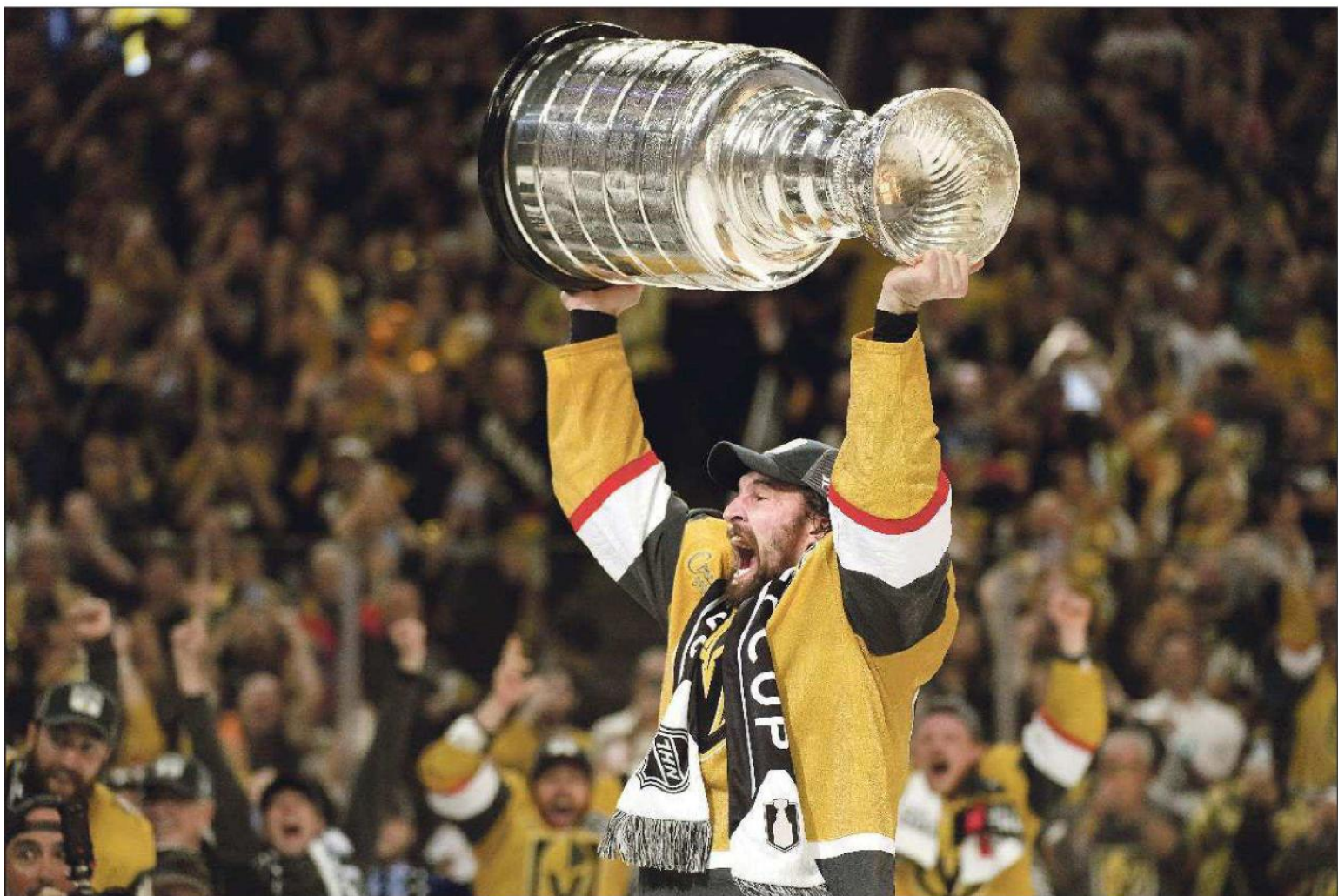
"Ah," he said. "It's the only thing God gave me. Faces and names. I can meet you today, and I can see you in five years, and as soon as I see your face, your name comes to my mind right away."

As for this week? Unforgettable.

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

STANLEY CUP FINAL :: GAME 5
VEGAS 9, FLORIDA 3
GOLDEN KNIGHTS WIN SERIES 4-1



VEGAS right wing Mark Stone hoists the Stanley Cup after the Golden Knights defeated the Florida Panthers 9-3 in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Final in Las Vegas. The Knights won the series 4-1 for the first championship in their franchise's six-season history.

Photographs by JOHN LOCHER Associated Press

A Golden night for Vegas

Knights win first NHL title, routing Florida in front of fired-up fans

HELENE ELLIOTT

LAS VEGAS — It was almost too much to absorb, but not too much to cherish. Members of the Golden Knights hugged and cried and lifted the gleaming Stanley Cup skyward Tuesday, knowing their names soon will be etched on hockey's biggest prize after the 9-3 rout of Florida that ended the Cup Final in five games. The details of how they got there didn't matter in that moment. The emotions did.

"I don't know how much I'll remember about the hockey itself but I'll certainly remember this group and the memories that we've shared throughout this year, and the ones that we're going to make later this week," Vegas defenseman Alec Martinez, a two-time Cup champion with the Kings, said while surrounded by



FLORIDA PANTHERS center Aleksander Barkov tries to get a shot past Vegas Golden Knights goaltender Adin Hill.

friends and family on the chopped-up ice at T-Mobile Arena.

"Honestly, I think we genuinely love each other. I know that sounds so cliché but this team is so tight. The off-ice fun that we had translates onto the ice. When you have a group like that you're inevitably going to face adversity. That's inherently part of the game. There's going to be injuries, there's going to be downfalls, ups, downs. But genuinely, I think it was the off-ice intangibles that were the difference maker."

Maybe so. And maybe it was the Golden Knights' ability to build a big team with an unusually mobile defense and more goal-tending depth than they thought they'd need, and their ability to turn into Stanley Cup champions a group that called itself the "Golden Misfits" in its first season because players had been deemed expendable and were left available in the expansion draft that stocked the new team's roster.

[See Elliott, B8]

Getting precious gem at perfect time

Gonsolin gives up two hits and no runs in six innings in opener of Dodgers' homestand.

DODGERS 5
CHI. WHITE SOX 1

By MIKE DiGIOVANNA

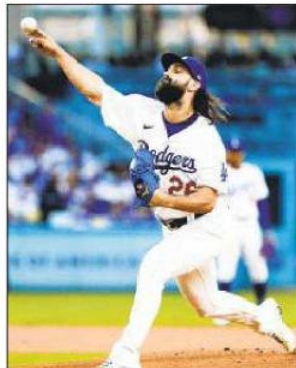
A diminished fastball did not equal diminishing returns for Dodgers right-hander Tony Gonsolin, who blanked the Chicago White Sox on two hits through six innings of Tuesday night's 5-1 victory.

Gonsolin, pitching on six days' rest — two more than normal — because the Dodgers felt he needed more recovery time between starts, struck out six, walked two and had only one runner reach second base.

Leaning heavily on his split-finger changeup and four-seam fastball and mixing in his curveball and slider, Gonsolin gave up only a single to Andrew Vaughn in the fourth and an infield single to Yoan Moncada in the sixth. He induced swinging strikes on nine of 90 pitches.

"The extra couple of days really helped me," Gonsolin said. "For whatever reason, I just didn't come out of this last start super great. I wasn't bouncing back right away. It was kind of weird, honestly. I haven't really experienced something like that, but I feel a lot better."

[See Dodgers, B6]



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times
TONY GONSOLIN gave up two hits and struck out six in six shutout innings for the Dodgers.

After No. 1 lock, mock opens up

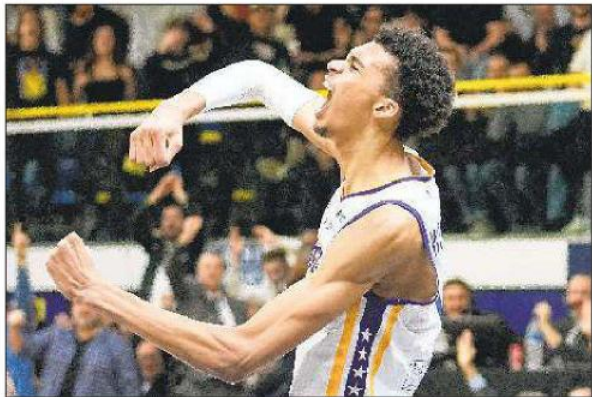
Spurs will draft Wembanyama, but rest of first round less sure

DAN WOIKE
ON THE NBA

The top of the upcoming NBA draft has been settled in some circles for years, but it seemingly got cemented Oct. 5 in Las Vegas when league scouts and executives hit the Strip after seeing Victor Wembanyama play in person. They smiled as they dumped money onto blackjack tables and sipped drinks, the sight of a 7-foot-4 ball-handling, sweet-shooting teenager better than any 7-7-7 slot pull.

The reward of the No. 1 pick was as compelling as any chase this season, with the San Antonio Spurs landing the rights to take a player who could change their future and perhaps the entire league.

No pressure. It's regarded as a pretty strong draft by evaluators, who view it in tiers. At the top, there's Wembanyama, the 19-year-old from France; Alabama's Brandon Miller; Scoot Henderson, another 19-year-old playing in the G League; and, maybe, Amen Thompson, a 20-year-old playing in the Overtime



MICHEL EULER Associated Press

VICTOR WEMBANYAMA, a 19-year-old from France, likely will be selected first overall June 22.



VASHA HUNT Associated Press

BRANDON MILLER, who starred at Alabama, could be headed to the Hornets with the No. 2 pick.

Elite pro league. Then there's a group of an additional five or six players ahead of a big group with similar talent.

The "eye of the beholder" nature of the draft makes it difficult to project. There's also speculation about teams prioritizing players who are more NBA-ready, with the new collective bargaining agreement putting the squeeze on the league's biggest spenders. Inexpensive, controllable talent always has been valued, and new league rules might enhance that thought.

Based on conversations with scouts and executives around the NBA, here's The Times' first crack at a mock draft ahead of June 22, when it goes down for real.

1. San Antonio Spurs: Victor Wembanyama, 7-4, C, France

Before the season, one NBA general manager wondered whether there were more than three active players who could be traded for this pick. One scout recently wondered whether there was anyone whom the

[See Woike, B8]

2023 U.S. OPEN

AT LOS ANGELES COUNTRY CLUB
THURSDAY TO SUNDAY

Stanford quartet secures a tee time

It's a major feat and perhaps a first as four college teammates all qualify for U.S. Open.

By SAM FARMER

More than usual, Los Angeles Country Club is covered in trees.

Four current members of the Stanford men's golf team qualified for the U.S. Open — that's believed to be a record for the major championship — and, as any fan of the Cardinal knows, the unofficial mascot of Stanford is the tree.

"Just to see the familiar faces helps us feel more comfortable," said Alex Yang of Newport Beach, who played a practice round Tuesday with fellow Stanford qualifiers Michael Thorbjornsen, Karl Vilips and Barclay Brown, all of whom qualified at different sites.

"In such a crazy, exciting environment, that's one thing that feels normal." There's nothing normal

about this feat. Qualifying for the U.S. Open is a monumental task. There were a record 10,187 entries this year, and 911 golfers advanced to the final stage — held at 13 sites — with a mere 62 making it through.

The United States Golf Assn. couldn't find another time four active college teammates qualified for the same Open. Three Louisiana State teammates made it in 2018.

Most seasoned of the Stanford foursome is Thorbjornsen, who was the Pac-12 Conference golfer of the year and is ranked second in the world among amateurs. This is his third U.S. Open. He won the U.S. Junior Amateur in 2018 and earned an exemption for Pebble Beach in 2019, where he made the

[See Stanford, B9]

Golfers want answers too

The PGA Tour's merger with LIV Golf still is a hot topic among players at the U.S. Open. **B9**

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR



RACHELLE BAKER For The Times

BOOK REVIEW

Tough path to epiphany

In ‘Such Kindness,’ Andre Dubus III crafts superb white working-class Buddha story.

BY LORRAINE BERRY

Tom Lowe has been dealt a rough hand. He is a skilled builder, and in a moment of carelessness, he fell off a roof and shattered his bones.

In “Such Kindness,” Andre Dubus III offers Tom as an angry Siddhartha Gautama, the pre-enlightenment Buddha, resentful and grieving all that he has lost and as yet unaware of any path forward.

As the book opens, Tom is sitting in a car with his neighbor Trina and Jamey, the young man driving them to the home of Tom’s banker. They pass Phillips Academy, the prep school in Andover, Mass., “a place dedicated to opening door after door for its students, most of whom come from families for whom doors are rarely closed anyway.” Tom’s resentment is the neon glare reflecting off the streets.

The banker had urged Tom to take out a mortgage, then foreclosed when Tom’s injury made work impossible. Tom’s half-baked plan is to take revenge by stealing [See ‘Sand and Fog,’ E2]

THE ETERNAL ZOOT SUIT

Once vilified, the style has persisted and still looks dandy

CAROLINA A. MIRANDA



A suit lands in the United States on the back of an exiled king. It is copied, amended and upgraded, embraced

by Hollywood actors in search of the fashionable. As it travels the country in the late 1930s, the coats grow longer, the pants more voluminous and the waists ever more cinched. It is adopted by bandleaders and jazz musicians who add bold ties in colorful prints.

The zoot suit, colloquially known in its era as “drapes,” was, by most accounts, made prominent by African Americans in Harlem and then quickly embraced by working-class youths across the country and across racial lines — in California, by Mexican Americans, Filipinos and a small subset of Japanese Americans who took their suits with them to World War II-era incarceration camps. Since then, it has been periodically reborn through revivals — like one in the late 1970s when Edward James Olmos don-



Associated Press

PRECURSOR to the zoot suit: the ’30s “English drape,” worn here by the Duke of Windsor.

ned a sleek black suit in Luis Valdez’s “Zoot Suit,” the trenchant, musical play turned Hollywood film.

“It is considered the first uniquely American suit,” says Clarissa Esguerra, a curator of costume and textiles at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (which acquired a rare 1940s zoot suit for its permanent collection in

2011). Within the zoot suit, you’ll find a uniquely American story of style. You’ll also find a story about the ways in which Black and brown youths are criminalized for the looks they adopt.

This month marks the 80th anniversary of the Zoot Suit Riots, the five-day period in June 1943 when servicemen stalked the streets of Los Angeles attacking Mexican American zoot suiters. The police largely looked on; when they did make arrests, it was primarily the victims. The Los Angeles Herald-Express ran a story on how to “de-zoot” a zoot suiter: “Grab a zooter. Take off his pants and frock coat and tear them up or burn them.”

There were other episodes of violent upheaval over the summer of 1943 — including race riots in Detroit and New York. But only in L.A., writes historian Kathy Peiss in her informative 2011 book, “Zoot Suit: The Enigmatic Career of an Extreme Style,” “did a style of dress become the focal point of unrest or figure prominently in the response.”

It has been almost a century since the earliest (and much more [See Zoot suits, E6]

THE WIDE SHOT

A toon boom at the movies

A wave of animated films brings a breath of fresh air to the box office and the craft.

BY RYAN FAUGHNDER

To paraphrase and expand upon Guillermo Del Toro’s oft-repeated call to arms during the Oscar campaign for his stop-motion “Pinocchio,” animation is not a genre. It’s a medium.

And, of course, a huge business.

One that is changing rapidly, with a competitive landscape that has evolved in the years after the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered cinemas.

The enthusiastic audience response to recent animated releases has shown the popularity of the format operating in a variety of films, despite unfounded worries that families would avoid movie theaters following the public health crisis.

Sony Pictures’ “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse” has grossed \$390 million globally in its first 12 days, performing as much like a superhero movie as a PG-rated family title, already topping the run of its predecessor. The sequel’s win comes after Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment’s “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” surpassed \$1.3 billion in box-office sales, becoming the highest-grossing movie of the year so far.

I mention these two mostly unrelated films in the same breath to note the lack of hegemony in today’s animation business, particularly as Disney and Pixar — long the dominant players among family crowds — struggle to recover from the COVID-19-era decision to release multiple films directly to Disney+. Pixar’s latest effort, “Elemental,” is tracking to open with a modest \$35 million to \$40 million in the U.S. and Canada this weekend. [See Animation, E2]

TELEVISION REVIEW

‘Monty’s’ men have aged well

A sequel series to the 1997 British comedy is a sentimental and satisfying update.

ROBERT LLOYD
TELEVISION CRITIC

“The Full Monty,” premiering Wednesday on FX on Hulu, is a sequel — a true sequel, not a reboot or a remake — that brings back the entire main cast of the 1997 film, with its screenwriter, Simon Beaufoy, on board as

showrunner. If it isn’t the most likely exploitation of an old property, having no superheroes or secret agents, it’s not an unreasonable one, given the worldwide success of the movie, which spawned a hit soundtrack and a long-running musical. Even if you haven’t seen the movie or the musical, you may well know what’s meant by the title.

The film — whose plot is barely recounted at the head of the series — tells the story of six unemployed steelworkers in the depressed [See ‘Monty,’ E3]



BEN BLACKALL FX

ROBERT CARLYLE’S Gaz connects with daughter Destiny (Talitha Wing) in “The Full Monty,” which reunites the cast and brings in a younger generation.

A sentimental and moving sequel

['**Monty**,' from E1] city of Sheffield, England, who hatch a far-fetched plan to stage a Chippendales-style strip show to earn some money and, despite reservations and setbacks, do. Directed by Peter Cattaneo (who recently helmed PBS' "Magpie Murders"), it's a lovely movie that does not shortchange the domestic and social challenges of its characters. The film ends at their moment of glory, and though there's been some suggestion of better days ahead, the future is left blank.

Though the series is sensible enough on its own terms, familiarity with the film will make it a richer, and not at all a disappointing, experience; the show is faithful to its predecessor's spirit — things are still tough in this corner of Sheffield, and the protagonists are still muddling through. But, as is the case with sequels, the series also introduces the element of time; among other things, this a show about age. (You would not ordinarily find a series with this many gray heads, were it not based on such a popular property.) Not all the characters were acquainted at the start of the film; now they are old mates who have been in and out of one another's hair and good graces since the last century.

And so here we are, 26 years on, or "Seven Prime Ministers" and "Eight Northern Regeneration Policies Later," as the series has it — which is to say nothing much has changed — putting a political frame around the human drama. The first episode is titled "Leveling Up," a reference to the British investment program that is supposed to bring the poorer north into parity with the richer south — and it's worth noting that Beaufoy's co-creator is Alice Nutter, formerly a member of the anarchist pop-punk



MARK ADDY returns as Dave, whose marriage to Lesley Sharp's Jean is a focal point of the new sequel series.

'The Full Monty'

Where: Hulu

When: Anytime

Rating: TV-MA (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 17)

band Chumbawumba, of "Tubthumping" fame ("I get knocked down, but I get up again"), and that both writers are northerners by birth. Characters about whom we learned little in the film have been given breadth and depth, and younger generations have been brought in for demographic range.

Gaz (Robert Carlyle), the charming schemer who dreamed up the strip show, opened the film attempting to steal a girder from a shuttered factory; he's reintroduced here dragging home a mattress he found lying about. The divorced father of Nathan (Wim Snape) in the film, he is now additionally the twice-divorced, semiestranged father of teenager Destiny (Talitha Wing), careless of her potential, and who has inherited his larcenous wildness. (Nathan, bucking heredity, has become a policeman, with a son of his own.) Gaz loves his kids, and continually disappoints them. Dave (Mark Addy) is the caretaker of the school

where his wife, Jean (Lesley Sharp), has become headmistress, spurred to a successful, though stressful, career by a family tragedy. (Dave has his related issues.) Their marriage seems less than strong. Horse (Paul Barber), the film's best dancer, is on disability, down to one lung and "a dodgy leg." Lomper (Steve Huison), whom we first met attempting suicide, is now married to Dennis (Paul Clayton), a new character; together they run a cafe called the Big Baps, whose name Lomper does not understand is a risqué double-entendre (baps are bread rolls, and a slang term for breasts). The cafe is where all the

characters turn up and hang around and comment on changing times. (Tom Wilkinson's Gerald, formerly a foreman, is a permanent fixture.) Guy (Hugo Speer), whose only character points in the film were that he was well-endowed and wound up holding hands with Lomper, has become well-to-do, running something like a property management company — I haven't worked it out exactly in two viewings — that has oversight of the physical plant of Jean's school; he is unhelpful. New character Darren (Miles Jupp), whom Guy hires to run interference for him, is a reserved sort whose life will be turned around,

and enlarged, by new neighbors, asylum seekers from Kurdistan. The actors from the original step into their roles as if they'd left them yesterday. Because the characters are immediately likable, and because television has taught us to fear the worst, the series generates a good deal of tension, even as it sticks mostly to comedy. Destiny, with responsible but pliable pal Cal (Dominic Sharkey), accidentally kidnaps a famous dog when she steals a car for a joyride. Gaz gets involved with a patient at the psychiatric hospital where he works, a schizophrenic graffiti artist (Arnold Oceng), who he imagines might be the next Banksy, while Dave befriends a bullied 12-year-old (Aiden Cook as Dean, called Twiglet). Jean might have grown perilously close to a male colleague (Phillip Rhys Chaudhary), while economic pressures have put her at odds with her best friend, music teacher Hetty (Sophie Stanton). Horse battles unfeeling bureaucracy to get his benefits; Lomper is visited by loan sharks. The series has what might be called an overlapping episodic structure: Stories told in one installment resolve — or come to a head anyway — in the next, sewing different characters' narratives into a quilt of shorter and longer arcs. In this respect, and in its regard for working-class people in ordinary distressed circumstances, "The Full Monty" has something of the flavor of "Reservation Dogs," without the magic realism — albeit not everything that happens here could be termed realistic. But, like Gaz's pie-in-the-sky schemes, what's unlikely is in the service of bringing something good to the characters, and to the audience. Doubtless some viewers will find "The Full Monty" sentimental to a fault, though sentiment was key to the success of the movie. And as long as we have to have television, let it be moving, I say.

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

2- 3- 3 16X

2÷ 8+

3+

3

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60X 3÷ 10+ 3

1- 5-

2 11+ 6+

2- 1- 24X

3÷ 3- 3 9+

5- 3

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PREVIOUS ANSWERS

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4231
3124
2413
654321
243516
512634
461253
135462
326145

6/14/23

HOROSCOPE

By HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): You will acknowledge and process what you're feeling without holding on or dwelling in the intensity.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You'll choose kindness and warmth even in situations where others are competing with might and power plays.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): It is said that gratitude is the most direct line to the angels, and indeed they will respond to the appreciation you radiate now as you find at least 10 things to be happy about before breakfast.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Don't confuse rest with laziness. Feeling tired isn't weakness; it's a signal to let nature repair you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Though some suffering may be inevitable, a lot of it might be simply a bad habit. Move your focus to what you do

want and work that angle.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You show what you've been thinking about and working on. In doing so, you open yourself to comments and the possibility of being misunderstood.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): You fall easily into a conversation with a stranger. You'll run into unique perspectives, some weird, some helpful.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Getting clear about your wants and priorities is like making your bed. It's not something to do once, but something you have to keep redoing every day.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're not just open-minded; you're an adventurer. Adventurers endeavor multiple times to make sure nothing was missed.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let minor knocks affect your stellar attitude. Plans may change or people

may fail to deliver as expected.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll receive a new piece of the puzzle, information that connects a few different parts of the picture. It's a thrill when things click in.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be inconvenienced — a cosmic boon that works in your favor, actually.

Today's birthday (June 14): Welcome to a colorful and eclectic year in which life will keep you guessing. Highlights: People will give you odd things that you will turn into art, commerce or social currency. A worthy pursuit brings out new levels of focus and determination in you. A chance encounter leads to a lifelong friendship. Virgo and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers: 10, 6, 37, 2 and 19.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By Lynn Lempel

ACROSS

1 "Sheer Driving Pleasure" automaker

4 "A Little Bit Stronger" singer Sara

9 Carmen Sandiego's crime

14 Fish eggs

15 Mature on the vine

16 Aerie nester

17 "Science Friday" host Flatow

18 Route to church?

20 No-sweat class

22 Prof's URL ender

23 CPR pro

24 Route to the navy yard?

28 Chowd down

30 Bubbly bar supply

31 Oscar winner Poitier

33 Mama of folk rock

36 River noted for its châteaux

37 Route to a showing of "Jaws"?

42 Experts who deal with stress?

43 Fallon's predecessor

44 Discarded stuff

46 Lay in store for

52 Pre-1991 atlas initials

53 Route to basketball camp?

56 Brit's washroom

58 Scoundrel

59 Hold the throne

60 Route to the liquor store?

64 Many a dad joke

65 Musical set in Argentina

66 Conjure up

67 Yalie

68 Back at the track

69 Worked with thread

70 Uncertainties

DOWN

1 Legal filings

2 Group's level of enthusiasm

3 Untrustworthy type

4 Like a poor copy

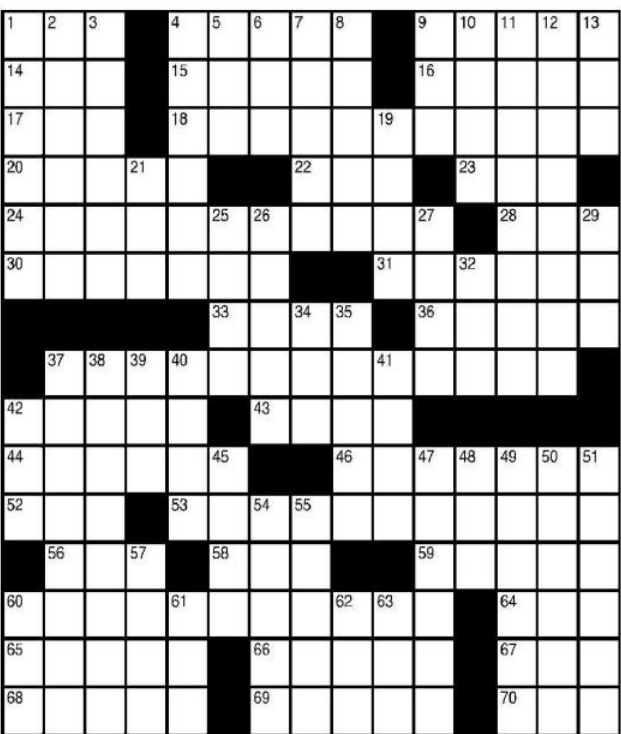
5 Fight (for)

6 Busy time for the IRS

7 "When pigs fly!"

8 Derisive

9 Top typically paired with jeans



10 Fabled procrastinator

11 Narcissist's attribute

12 Excessive praise

13 Brother of pols Jack and Bobby

19 Stage signals

21 However

25 Nonorthodox religious group

26 Fishing net

27 Carpet alternative

29 Iris locale

32 Big name in chemicals

34 Cow or sow

35 Africa-to-Asia land bridge

37 Starts streaming, say

38 Equip with new parts

39 Arrivals in "Arrival"

40 "Quickly" letters

41 Word with hall or house

42 Comfy attire

45 Rooney of "Carol"

47 Consented

48 -de-France: Paris's region

49 Asian capital with a Chiang Kai-shek memorial

50 Swallow up

51 "The Unit" actor Haysbert

54 Reliever's successes

55 Martin of "Only Murders in the Building"

57 "Beetle Bailey" dog

60 Black History mo.

61 "To All the Boys" series creator Jenny

62 Currently

63 Guitar kin, informally



BRIDGE

By FRANK STEWART

The loser-on-loser play may be declarer's most valuable tool, useful in many situations: in establishing a suit, preparing an end play or executing an "avoidance" play.

In today's deal, North's bid of 2NT would have been an artificial forcing spade raise were he not a passed hand; as it was, his bid was natural and invitational, showing a balanced 11 or 12 points. Against four spades, West leads the jack of hearts: queen, king, three. South wins the heart return with dummy's ace and counts nine winners: six trumps and three side aces. Where can he get a 10th trick?

South should lead a diamond to his ace at the third

trick, lead a trump to dummy's nine and return the queen of diamonds. When East follows low, South discards his last heart — a loser on a loser. West takes the king, and leads a third heart. South ruffs and reaches dummy with the king of trumps to discard a club on the jack of diamonds. He loses one club at the end but makes his game.

You hold: ♠ K 9 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ Q J 6 ♣ 10 8 7 4 3. The dealer, at your right, passes. North in today's deal passed with this hand in second seat. Do you agree or would you have opened the bidding?

Answer: I sympathize with North's pass. North had minimum high-card values with only one ace and one king. His long suit was a ragged minor. He did have two "Quick Tricks." The modern

expert tendency is to open anything that remotely resembles an opening bid.

West dealer				
N-S vulnerable				
NORTH				
♠ K 9				
♥ A Q 5				
♦ Q J 6				
♣ 10 8 7 4 3				
WEST		EAST		
♠ 8 6 3		♥ 7 5		
♥ J 10 9 7		♥ K 8 2		
♦ K 8 7 3		♦ 10 9 5 4 2		
♣ Q 6		♣ K J 9		
SOUTH				
♠ A Q J 10 4 2				
♥ 6 4 3				
♦ A				
♣ A 5 2				
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠	
Pass	2 NT	Pass	4 ♠	
All Pass				
Opening lead – ♥ J				

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ASK AMY

Learning to be present

Dear Amy: I'll be a junior in high school in the fall.

So far, high school has been bland. The only excitement for me is the fact that I'm going to Japan on a school trip soon.

I want to attend an out-of-state college because I want to have a fresh start.

I want to have some kind of friend group (since I'm an introvert), to have a boyfriend and to attend parties (but I don't only want to party in college).

I have a hard time making decisions because I'm so worried that whatever I choose will be a bad decision and affect my future.

I tend to dwell on the future rather than the present.

I tend to be hard on myself, which makes me feel like I'm my own worst enemy.

I always worry about things instead of just relaxing and "being a teenager."

At times, I feel like I'm behind in everything that should happen to teenagers.

Sometimes, I just want to stop trying because nothing is going right for me. But other times, I want to keep going to see what happens.

What should I do?

DOUBTING EVERYTHING

Dear Doubting: What you are going through is very much within the norm, not

only for teens but at every stage of life.

As a former anxious and doubting teen, I'll pass along my own hard-earned wisdom: Life unfolds in fits and starts, and anxiety doesn't change the outcome. Looking back, the only regrets I have are those things I was too scared or anxious to try.

Aside from times when poor judgment leads to accidents, injury or pregnancy, few decisions you make now will change the course of your life.

College will definitely broaden your choices, but you'll still be you, with many of the same questions and insecurities. It is important for you to understand that the only person locking you into a specific future is you.

My advice for you is to deliberately shorten your view. For the rest of the summer, promise yourself not to look beyond the summer.

This Japan trip is an amazing opportunity to form friendships and connections. Slow down your racing thoughts, or you'll miss what's in front of you.

Researching Zen Buddhism as practiced in Japan might help you to comprehend that there is no purpose in being somewhere if all you are doing is thinking of going somewhere else.

Write down these three words: Be here now.

Dear Amy: We received an invitation to a graduation party for a very deserving young man.

Suddenly, a week before the graduation party we received a Facebook invite to an "additional celebration." The young graduate's sister accepted a promotion at her company and will be moving out of state for her new job.

Do we take a going-away gift for the daughter?

If yes, what is an appropriate gift and how much should we spend?

We are already giving \$100 to the graduate.

CONFUSED FRIENDS

Dear Confused: Adults who get job promotions already have their party gift — the promotion.

If you are close to this young woman and want to celebrate her good news, you could give her a coffee card for a modest amount ("Your first few brews in your new home are on us!").

Otherwise, I don't think it's necessary to give the sister anything except your sincere expressed delight.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at askamy@amydickinson.com.

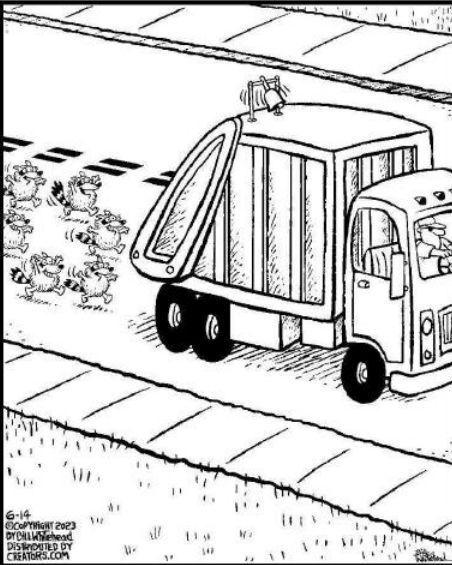
FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



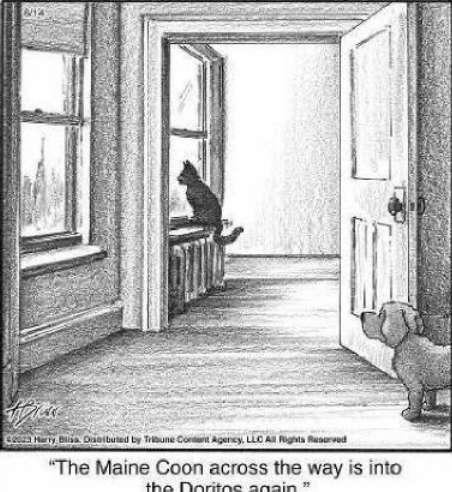
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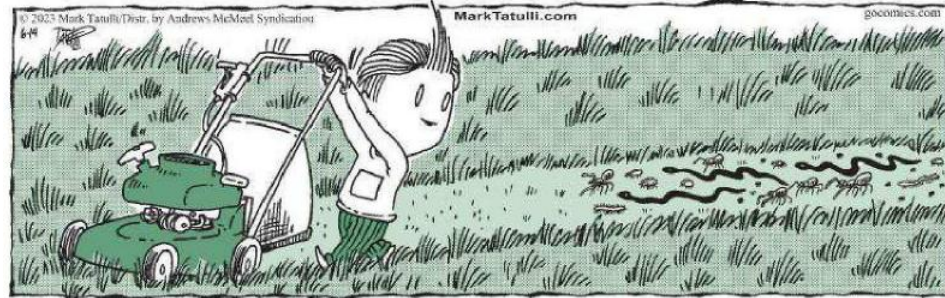
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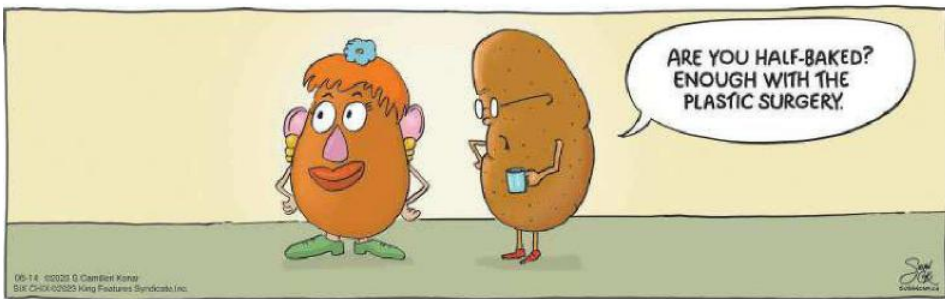
ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



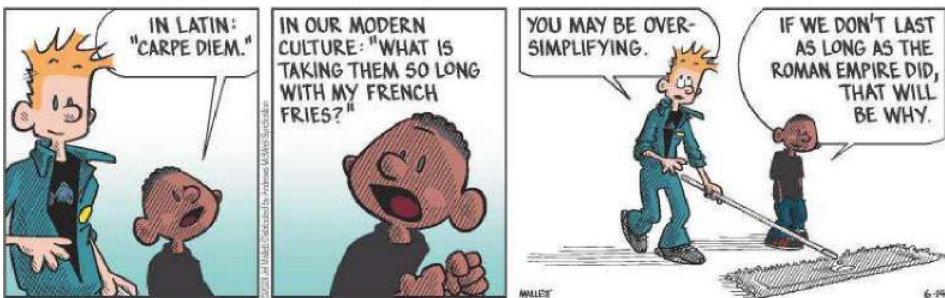
TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



SIX CHIX By Susan Camilleri Konar



FRAZZ By Jef Mallett



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



PICKLES By Brian Crane



BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



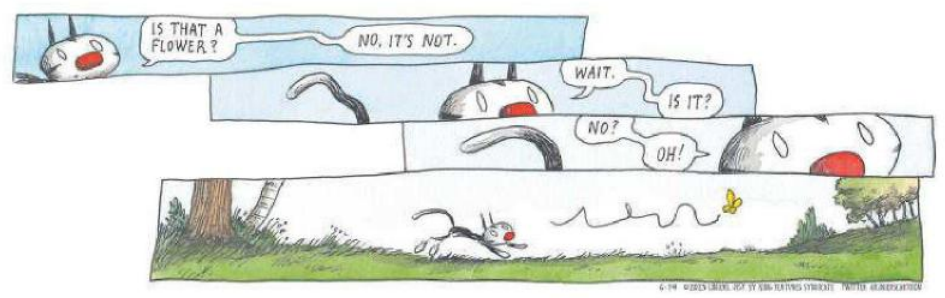
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



JUMP START By Robb Armstrong



MACANUDO By Liniers



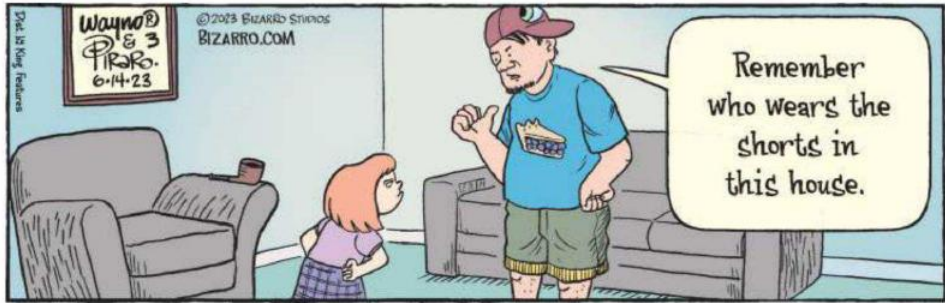
BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall



BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy



BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



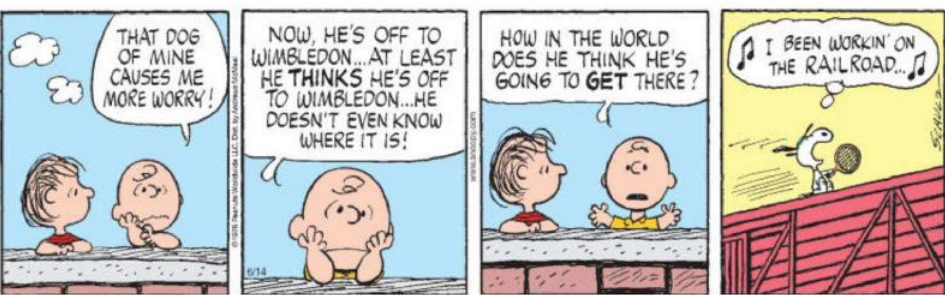
DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz





CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

THROUGH the Fullerton shop El Pachuco, Vanessa and Ray Estrella help to keep zoot suit design alive.

Worn with style

[Zoot suits, from E1] modest) versions of the zoot suit began to emerge in urban centers across the United States. Yet the suit is with us still — employed as a formal garment for weddings and proms, as stage attire for pop acts and even as inspiration for high fashion. Have a look at Fresno-born, New York-based designer Willy Chavarria's 2023 spring menswear collection and you will find echoes of the exaggerated contours of the zoot suit in his work: broad shoulders, tight waist and generous pants.

"For me, it's a timeless silhouette," says stylist and designer Keyla Marquez, founder of the L.A.-based Lujo Depot, which rents wardrobe for fashion and music video shoots. Marquez, who also serves as fashion director at large for The Times' Image magazine, recently teamed with eight other designers to create updated versions of the suit. "It's never gone out of style," she says.

The suit, says Pilar Tompkins Rivas, was and remains a "cultural affirmation" among Mexican Americans. Now the chief curator at the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, Tompkins Rivas organized "Tastemakers & Earthshakers: Notes From Los Angeles Youth Culture" at the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College in 2016, a show that examined the aesthetics of Chicano youth culture. "It's a way of saying we can develop our own sense of style apart from hegemonic Anglo society."

It's a style she knows intimately — her maternal grandparents rocked the look. "Some of my most precious family photographs are of them when they were 18 with their drapes and their pompadours."

For its wearers — most frequently, Black and brown men — the zoot suit also represented "a freedom over the body," says Jillian Hernandez, author of "Aesthetics of Excess: The Art and Politics of Black and Latina Embodiment." "If you think about braceros or the descendants of enslaved African Americans ... they were seen as workers. When you wear this garment, it's saying, I'm valuable, I'm more than a worker, I value my body."

THE BEGINNINGS

The origin story of the zoot suit is one of a few facts and a whole lot of lore.

What we do know is that its vital precursor emerged in the 1930s: a style known as the "English drape" — a men's suit that was less restrictive and offered a bit more panache than other early 20th century styles. The cut featured boxy shoulders and roomier arm holes, as well as a loose, high-waisted pant that flared at the knee and was cuffed at the ankle. The design, Peiss writes, "emphasized male athleticism and virility." The looser pant created a drape around the legs, which is how the suit (and later the zoot suit) got its moniker.

The English drape was a favorite of the Duke of Windsor, briefly Edward VIII, who abdicated the British throne to marry Wallis Simpson in 1936. The duke was a dandyish dresser who was much in the press in those days.



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

FITTING in progress: El Pachuco's Vanessa Estrella checks Andy Garcia's sizing.



CARLOS JARAMILLO Lujo Depot

UPDATED LOOKS by, from left, Freak City L.A., Lujo Depot and Israel Valencia.

"Many of the more daring of our Americans studied his garments before seeing their tailors," wrote Julius J. Adams of the New York Amsterdam News, a Black weekly, just days before the Zoot Suit Riots began in Los Angeles. The story ran under the headline: "Who was First Zoot-Suiter? Was it the Duke of Windsor?"

The drape suit was popularized by Hollywood actors, on screen and off. Cary Grant, Fred Astaire and Clark Gable wore it, and James Cagney turned it into de rigueur gangster wear.

EXPANDED DESIGN

The leap from drape to zoot wasn't large. Exaggerate the proportions and zoot-iness will be achieved. How exactly that happened, however, is up for debate. As Peiss notes in her book, tailors around the country have, over the decades, laid claim to the design.

After the 1943 riots, the New York Times ran a story that purported to track the first ever zoot suit to a busboy in Gainesville, Ga. The report said that the style may have been inspired by the long frock coats worn by Gable in "Gone With the Wind," which was released in 1939 — a theory echoed, at one point, by bandleader Cab Calloway, who was famous for his flamboyant drapes. But Howard Fox, a Chicago clothier and big band trumpeter who claimed credit for devising and naming the suit, once said that it was a style that "came right off the street and out of the ghetto."

The zoot suit was likely more an evolution than a wholesale invention. Early versions featured a more modestly scaled jacket that landed just below the derriere — like one worn by a teenage Malcolm X. Later examples, known as "extreme drapes," had long coats that hit the knee and trousers so baggy they could be confused for harem pants.

Whatever its exact journey, the suit spread like wildfire among hepcats who were into jitterbug and swing. (Zoot suits take on a conspicuous dynamism when the wearer dances.) Duke Ellington featured a skit about zoot suits in a musical review that played at the Mayan in downtown Los Angeles in the spring of 1941.

Calloway appeared in a billowing white zoot suit in the hit 1943 movie musical "Stormy Weather."

In the Southwest, the *tacuche*, as the suit was dubbed in Spanish, developed a devoted following among Mexican Americans, in particular among pachucos, urban youths who were interested in jazz and used a slang dialect known as *caló*. (Over the decades, media reports have conflated gangsterism and pachucismo. To be clear: Not all pachucos were gang members, nor did all gang members dress like pachucos. And countless Mexican Americans who did not identify as pachucos adopted aspects of the style.)

But the *tacuche* did make a statement. The suit emerged as a phenomenon in the wake of the mass deportations of Mexicans during the Great Depression and at a time when the Mexican presence within the U.S. was growing increasingly urban. "The zoot suit was a very conspicuous look," says Catherine S. Ramirez, author of "The Woman in the Zoot Suit: Gender, Nationalism, and the Cultural Politics of Memory." "This was at a time when Mexicans and people of Mexican descent were not supposed to be seen. ... And for young people to stand on the street corner and announce their presence, this was a big deal."

Over the course of her career, conceptual artist Sandra de la Loza has made work that examines underexplored L.A. histories, including a recent piece inspired by the Lincoln Heights Jail, where many

zoot suiters were held during the riots (now on view at the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans). Both of the artist's parents were pachucos in the 1940s, and she notes that the era was one of "intense Americanization," when "you didn't speak Spanish and you'd get punished if you looked a certain way."

THE LOOK FOR WOMEN

Pachuca fashion frequently consisted of an exaggerated version of '40s era women's styles that included pencil skirts and a broad-shouldered "fingertip" jacket (the sleeves went down to the fingers) whose cut evoked the dimensions of the zoot coat. Dark lipstick and bouffant hairdos completed the look. But some pachucas (including De la Loza's mother, Hilda) also wore the men's garb, such as the billowing pants — at a time when a woman in slacks was still considered outré.

As with any look, young people generally gravitated to it not because it made a grand political statement, but because they thought it was cool. Ramirez interviewed a number of women who donned pachuca styles in the '40s for her book. When asked why, the answer was simple: "I didn't want to be square."

Naturally, its boldness and popularity made the zoot suit a target. Many parents hated the look. De la Loza remembers an anecdote about her grandmother burning one of her mother's suits. As part of its coverage of the riots, The Times featured a photo of an "irate mother" tearing her son's

suit to shreds. Some dance halls established rules that coat sleeves should not extend beyond the fingertips and pants should not be too tightly pegged at the ankle. And, of course, there was the federal government.

In 1942, the War Production Board (WPB), the agency that regulated the production of goods during World War II, issued limits on the amount of wool that could be used in the fabrication of suits. Zoot suits were held up as symbols of profligacy. "Every boy or girl who buys such a garment and every person who sells it," the head of the WPB stated, "is really doing an unpatriotic deed."

If at first the public attitude toward the suit had been one of bemusement, by the summer of 1943 it was being treated as a menace, Peiss writes, especially in L.A., where baseless rumors painted pachucos as gangsters and rapists.

When the riots exploded, city leaders got busy further vilifying the zoot suit. The Times labeled them "freak suits," and the City Council passed a resolution banning the garment. In the meantime, the object of much of the violence was Mexican youth — whether wearing zoot suits or not. The suit was simply a convenient excuse.

If the intent of the sailors who took to the streets of L.A. in June 1943 had been to rid the world of zoot suits, their actions were futile.

Coverage of the riots led to coverage of the style. There was sneering condescension, of course, but there were also some honest attempts to track the roots of the look. The New Yorker featured a chatty "Talk of the Town" dispatch about Harlem tailors known for crafting extreme drapes. (They found the tailors after calling on Black journalists at the Amsterdam News.) And the suit, already popular in the borderland areas around cities like El Paso, began to gain popularity internationally.

Mexican performers such as Tin Tan (Germán Valdés), who hailed from Ciudad Juárez, opposite El Paso, became known for playing a pachuco in films such as "El hijo desobediente" (The Disobedient Son), released in 1945. His character dresses in a flamboyant zoot suit — complete with feathered hat — and uses slang drawn from *caló*.

In Mexico City, dance halls began catering to a clientele that donned pachuco styles — one of which, the Salón Los Angeles, operates to this day.

ZOOT SUITS TODAY

By the 1950s, the zoot suit began to fade, but echoes of the style remained.

Daniel James Cole, a historian who teaches at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology and co-wrote the 2015 book "The History of Modern Fashion: From 1850," notes that the 1950s, in some ways, saw a return to prewar trends, including trimmer suits without embellishments such as cuffs. But he says that a certain flamboyance redolent of the drape suit — and, by extension, the zoot suit — lingered.

The postwar "Bold Look" promoted by Esquire magazine in the spring of 1948 features a man with a boldly printed tie; pinstripes and double breasted cuts likewise remained. "You frequently saw men wearing boutonnières with business suits and wide brim hats and their wide rayon ties," says Cole, "and there's this dapper-ness."

More literal reverberations of the drape cut have also reappeared through the years in the form of fashions such as pegged pants. Artist John M. Valadez, who came of age in Boyle Heights in the 1950s and '60s, says that even after the zoot suit had disappeared, "the pants were still a thing."

In the late 1970s, he made a series of photographic portraits of Chicano youths during a residency at the Centro de Arte Publico in

Highland Park, and the images frequently capture young men donning some version of pleated pants that drape around the knee. "It was about the ironing and the pleats," he remembers, accompanied by bleached and starched T-shirts that were "*ultra*-white."

De la Loza, who was part of the underground punk scene in the late 1980s, remembers wearing similar pants as part of her look. "I would wear men's style shoes — wing tips — with baggy pants ... and then wear a tight top, like a halter top." Like the evolution of the zoot suit, it marked a way of taking a trend and bending it to a specific social context. "We can take mass-produced clothing that is produced for certain intentions," she says, "and then appropriate it and play with it as an act of gender defiance."

Over the decades, the zoot suit itself has made regular reappearances.

The premiere of "Zoot Suit" at the Mark Taper Forum in 1978, followed by the release of the film three years later, sparked a renewed interest in the suit — and reframed it within the greater popular culture as an object not of menace, but of cultural pride. (It didn't hurt to have the relentlessly cool Olmos slinking around the stage striking choreographic poses in a stylish black *tacuche* and cherry red shirt.)

Musicians in search of flair have also found ways of keeping it alive. Mick Jones of the British rock act the Clash wore a purple zoot suit on stage during one of the band's earliest U.S. television appearances in 1980. The swing revival of the '90s — which saw the rise of bands such as Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and the Cherry Pop-pin' Daddies — also kept the suit in view. Lead singer Roco Pachukote of the Mexico City rock band Maldita Vecindad has long worn zoot suits on stage, as has Kid Creole of Kid Creole and the Coconuts. In fact, one of Kid Creole's suits — a bright coral one — is now in the collection of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Early in May, I headed to El Pachuco in Fullerton, a boutique and custom tailor shop where the zoot set have been getting their duds since 1978. The shop was founded by Phyllis Estrella, who was inspired by the style after catching a production of "Zoot Suit" at the Music Center. Since then, her boutique has produced suits for musicians (including Pachukote and Kid Creole) and worked on fabrication of the costumes for the revival of "Zoot Suit" staged at the Taper in 2017.

On the morning I land, the shop is being minded by Estrella's daughter-in-law, Vanessa Estrella, who is busy fitting Adriana Olivas, a young woman from Colorado who is getting a custom suit made in emerald green fabric. The cuts of the shop's suits honor the extreme drape look of the '40s, Estrella says, but over the years colors and fabrics have evolved. In the past, suits were made with wool, which is heavy and expensive; these days, lighter poly blends are the fabric of choice.

What may have seemed a highly niche business has proved a long-lasting one thanks to the zoot suit's staying power — aided and abetted by social media. (El Pachuco has even shipped outfits to Vietnam.)

Olivas, 26, says she is the fourth generation in her family to wear the suit. In the '40s, her great-grandfather took to wearing a zoot suit as an act of solidarity after hearing about the Zoot Suit Riots — and he wore it the rest of his life. ("He was the No. 1 pachuco of Colorado," she says.) Her grandparents and parents wore it, and now Olivas is passing on the tradition to her children.

"It's important to teach my kids," she says, "know where you came from and don't let anyone tear you down for the way that you look."



Associated Press



JAY THOMPSON Center Theatre Group

IN JUNE 1943, zoot suit wearers were beaten and stripped in L.A.'s streets during a media-fueled frenzy, left. That history is the core of "Zoot Suit," a play introduced at Mark Taper Forum in 1978, above.

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